

2011

# James W. C. Pennington and Transatlantic Abolitionism

Manisha Sinha

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Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies

## Annual Report 2010-11

### Special Feature:

Manisha Sinha:

"James W.C. Pennington and Transatlantic Abolitionism"



Ruprecht-Karls-Universität  
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**Annual Report 2010-11**

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## Rector's Welcome

Dear reader,

It is my great pleasure to acknowledge that the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) – a pillar of excellence of our alma mater – enriched our 625th anniversary with a multitude of impressive activities. These included a photo exhibition, the University Hour, the commencement speech by U.S. Ambassador Philip D. Murphy, the America Day, the University Mile, and the international conference “Religion and the Marketplace in the United States.”

These events even got the attention of the White House. President Obama conveyed his greetings and his appreciation for the James W.C. Pennington Award, established by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology of Heidelberg University. The HCA activities also attracted students, faculty, and the Heidelberg public alike and significantly contributed to enhancing our knowledge about American history, politics, culture, and society. Once more, the HCA remarkably illustrated its function as a transatlantic bridge builder.

Since 1386, Germany's oldest university has been a magnet for students from all over the world. When the first student from the United States enrolled in 1793, no one could have imagined that American students would become an important part of the history of Heidelberg University. In 1931, they bestowed their biggest gift on the Ruperto Carola: The “Neue Universität” was built with funds that Jacob Gould Schurman, U.S. ambassador to Germany in the 1920s, had raised among his wealthy New York acquaintances. Eighty years later, Heidelberg Alumni U.S. contributed significantly to the renovation of Heidelberg's “White House.” A number of them returned to their alma mater during the jubilee festivities and enjoyed a couple of receptions in the HCA's courtyard. For many of the U.S. alumni, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies has become the face of our university on the other side of the Atlantic.

Kindest regards,

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Bernhard Eitel,  
Rector of the University of Heidelberg



## Preface

Dear Friends and Benefactors, Students and Colleagues,

At the HCA we have good reason to claim that the last academic year has been an *annus mirabilis* in the dynamic development and expansion of our center. Thanks to the sustained support of the State of Baden-Württemberg, Heidelberg University, and our generous benefactors, we were able to further institutionalize our multi-disciplinary mission and intensify our cooperation with several faculties and disciplines.

Two new “bridge professors,” shared with the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Theology, respectively, were established at the HCA. Ulrike Gerhard was appointed Professor of Geography of North America, Jan Stievernann Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States. Günter Leyboldt, Professor of American Literature und Culture, signed a joint appointment with the HCA, thus following the 2009 decision of Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History.

Dietmar Schloss, Professor of American Literature, who has been a “bridge professor” since 2009, our senior lecturer in political science, PD Dr. Martin Thunert, whose position was tenured this year, lecturers Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung and Dr. Steven Less have for years given substance to our mission of teaching American Studies at the HCA with a cross-disciplinary perspective and doing justice to the complexity of the object of our research – the United States. Three American guest professors—Fulbright Prof. Kirsten Fischer, as well as our Ghaemian Scholars in Residence, Prof. Charles Postel and Prof. Patrick Roberts—have also contributed to the HCA’s sparkling intellectual climate.

Full-time scholars at the HCA and members of our staff have been dedicated pillars of support: Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Executive Director of the HCA, Dr. Tobias Endler, Iris Hahn-Santoro, M.A., Dr. Mischa Honeck, Christina Larenz, Anne Lübbers, M.A., Dr. Anja Schüller and Daniel Silliman, M.A. They were assisted by free-lancer Dipl.-Soz. Michael Tröger and fifteen highly motivated part-time members of our staff, mostly B.A., M.A., and Ph.D. candidates. To learn more about the HCA’s staff members, please turn to the section on “People 2010-2011” in this annual report.

While mastering the complicated financial and bureaucratic procedures in expanding our institution, we faced a different challenge – the HCA’s contribution to the University’s 625th anniversary. As the

Rector in his welcome gracefully acknowledged, we responded to this challenge with a multitude of activities outlined in detail in this report.

The emotional highlight was our “America Day” on June 24, when our longtime benefactor, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, announced the inauguration of the James W.C. Pennington Award and U.S. Consul Jeanine Collins read an official message of greetings and appreciation from U.S. President Barack Obama. Why was the HCA able to attract the president’s attention, the scarcest good of the American democracy? It has been rightly said that it was easier for the French nobility to get the attention of Louis XIV during his famous “Levée” in the morning than for ordinary mortals to get the attention of the American president. Historians at the HCA rediscovered an exceptional but forgotten event. James W.C. Pennington, a former slave and American pastor, received an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University in 1849, the first award of its kind bestowed by a European—and perhaps any—university upon an African-American. In her profound keynote lecture “James W.C. Pennington and Transatlantic Abolitionism” Manisha Sinha introduces us to Pennington’s mesmerizing journey and to a fascinating episode of transatlantic intellectual and moral cooperation.

With the help of His Excellency Philip D. Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany, and the U.S. Consulate General in Frankfurt, the HCA succeeded in bringing the Pennington story to the attention of President Obama. The president thanked the HCA and the Faculty of Theology for the initiative and called it especially appropriate that the award will enable scholars to conduct research on subjects that were important to Pennington: slavery and emancipation, peace, education, religion and intercultural understanding.

On the occasion of the Ruperto Carola’s anniversary, Rector Prof. Bernhard Eitel launched another initiative that will sustain the ties that bind Heidelberg University to the United States – the restoration of the “Neue Universität.” This main lecture hall was built in 1931 thanks to a successful fundraising drive of former U.S. Ambassador to Germany Jacob Gould Schurman. We at the HCA are proud that our most generous benefactors, Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, lavishly funded the renovation of the Aula of the “Neue Universität.”

The Annual Report 2010-11 is a comprehensive account of the HCA’s activities and accomplishments during the past year. It is a testimony to the advances we continue to make as an Institute for Higher Education, a Center for Interdisciplinary Research and a Forum for Public Debate.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Detlef Junker". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Detlef" written in a more compact, stylized manner and the last name "Junker" written in a more expansive, flowing script.

Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker

Founding Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies





**Heidelberg Center  
for American Studies**

# Mission Statement

The Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) is a central academic facility of the Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg. As an intellectual center dedicated to the study of the United States, the HCA serves as an institute for higher education, as a center for interdisciplinary research, and as a forum for public debate. Building on long-standing ties between Heidelberg and the United States, the HCA also fosters interdisciplinary and intercultural exchange across the Atlantic.

Officially inaugurated in 2004, the HCA has become one of the leading centers for American Studies in Europe. It provides excellent research and education opportunities for scholars and students from all over the world. In addition, the HCA strengthens the profile of Heidelberg University as one of Germany's finest academic institutions. Heidelberg University's 625-year-old tradition of excellence, its international reputation, and its strong record in the study of the United States combine to create the ideal environment for the HCA.

## Benefactors of the HCA

Although the HCA is legally and institutionally a central academic institution of Heidelberg University, financially it is perhaps the only public-private partnership (PPP) in the humanities in Germany. Without the long-standing support and patronage of dedicated benefactors, the founding and continuous operation of the HCA would not have been possible. The HCA is sincerely grateful for the generosity of many individuals, corporations, and institutions.

This report is testimony to the generous support of our benefactors, whose contributions are described on these pages. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all individuals, institutions, and corporations who have supported the HCA for many years, among them five Honorary Senators of Heidelberg University: Curt Engelhorn, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Rolf Kentner, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, and Dr. Hans-Peter Wild. In addition, the HCA gratefully appreciates, in alphabetical order, the donations of Claudia Bussmann, Dr. Martin Bussmann, and the

Ladenburg Foundation; Dr. Kurt Bock and the BASF Group; Elfie and Ray Carrell; Soheyl Ghaemian; Herbert A. Jung; and Dr. Oliver Neumann and the John Deere Company. Donations from these benefactors not only enabled the institutional development of the HCA in general, but also provided several scholarships for its Master's and Ph.D. programs as well as funding for conferences.

With exceptional generosity, Honorary Senators Curt Engelhorn and Heidemarie Engelhorn have provided the Heidelberg Center for American Studies with a sound financial footing for years to come. In 2008, they committed to supporting the HCA with 400,000 EUR annually for ten years. Simultaneous with this long-term financial support, the Engelhorn family most hospitably put the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais at the HCA's free disposal and, moreover, underwrote construction of an annex to the landmarked palais that houses additional academic facilities and was dedicated in October 2009. (see page 24).



Again, the Ladenburg Foundation and the Friends of the HCA, headquartered in New York City, have been a pillar of institutional support. The Ghaemian Foundation, which established the Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars in 2007, decided to further support the HCA. Starting in the academic year 2009-10, the Foundation has offered a Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence Fellowship at the HCA with a stipend of 40,000 EUR. The first recipient of this fellowship was Professor Rashida Braggs, Ph.D., who came to the HCA from Stanford University, followed by Professor Patrick S. Roberts, Ph.D., from Virginia Tech University. In August 2011, the HCA welcomed the current Ghaemian Scholar in Residence, Professor Charles Postel from San Francisco State University.

One of the most active of benefactors of American Studies in Heidelberg since 1991, Rolf Kentner, established the Rolf-Kentner-Dissertation Prize in 2010. This annual award recognizes an outstanding and yet unpublished dissertation at a German University. In 2009, it was given to Daniel Stein from Göttingen University; the 2010 recipient was Frank Usbeck from Leipzig University.

Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger and the Lautenschläger Foundation continued their longtime support of the HCA in 2010-11 by providing the initial funding for a new and exciting program set up jointly by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology. The prestigious James W.C. Pennington Award, named for the first African American to receive an honorary doctorate from a European University, will bring preeminent visiting scholars to the HCA. On the occasion of the Award's inauguration, the HCA was honored to receive a message of greetings from U.S. President Barack Obama acknowledging this new initiative (see page 160). The Lautenschläger Foundation also provided funding for the multidisciplinary international conference "Religion and the

Marketplace in the United States," which took place in October 2011.

In 2011, eight MAS students and six Ph.D. candidates were privileged to enjoy the support of the BASF Group, Elfie and Ray Carrell, Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, and the Leonie Wild Foundation. And once more, the 2011 Spring Academy was made possible due to the generosity of the John Deere Company.

Last but not least, two foundations, the Schurman Foundation and the Friends of the HCA (FHCA), are responsible for managing parts of our privately donated funds. With a registered office in Heidelberg, the Schurman Foundation is in charge of tax-deductible contributions to the HCA from Europe and Germany.

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Since the spring of 2004, the American counterpart of the Schurman Foundation, the FHCA, has administered tax-deductible donations to the HCA from the United States:

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## Organization

As a central academic institution of Heidelberg University, the HCA is not part of a single faculty or department but is directly affiliated with the Rector's Office. A Board of Trustees, composed of long time supporters of the HCA and chief executives of Heidelberg University, advises the HCA in structural and financial affairs as well as in the

solicitation of donations. A Board of Directors, one from each of the six faculties participating in the HCA, provides advice on strategic decisions and supervises the center's academic activities. Founding Director Detlef Junker heads the HCA; daily business is managed by Executive Director Wilfried Mausbach.

## HCA Board of Trustees

In November 2005, the HCA established a Board of Trustees. Today, it consists of eleven members, all of them long time supporters of the HCA and of the endeavor to create a leading center for American Studies and transatlantic exchange at Heidelberg University. Along with HCA Founding Director Professor Detlef Junker they are: Dr. Kurt Bock (BASF Group, Ludwigshafen), Dr. Martin Bussmann (Mannheim LLC, New York), Curt Engelhorn, Heidemarie Engelhorn, Soheyl Ghaemian

(Reutax Corp.), Rolf Kentner (Mannheim), Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger (MLP Group, Heidelberg), Dr. Bernd-A.von Maltzan (Deutsche Bank Group, Frankfurt/Main), Dr. Hans-Peter Wild (Rudolf-Wild-Werke GmbH & Co KG, Eppelheim), and the Rector of Heidelberg University, Professor Bernhard Eitel. The Board of Trustees meets at least once a year to discuss the institute's progress and to advise its future developments. Dr. Hans-Peter Wild serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

### Dr. Hans-Peter Wild

The HCA's Board of Trustees is headed by Dr. Hans-Peter Wild, owner and chairman of the Wild Group of Companies. He studied law at Heidelberg University and business administration in Mannheim, Cambridge, and at the Sorbonne, Paris, and holds a doctorate from the Faculty of Law of the University of Mannheim. Dr. Wild was Managing Director of the Oil and Shipping Company Diersch & Schröder before joining his parents' company in 1974. Today it is the world's largest private manufacturer of natural ingredients for food and beverages. Additionally, Dr. Wild has taught at the University of Sofia. He also is president of the Leonie Wild Charitable Foundation, which he established with his mother in 1997, supporting social and cultural projects.



For a long time he has been supporting Heidelberg University, which named him Honorary Senator in 1996. Based on his experience with foreign markets and other cultures, Dr. Wild has always acknowledged the importance of paying attention to and respecting cultural difference. To provide others with the opportunity to also learn about the cultural specifics of the U.S., he has been supporting the HCA from the very beginning, e.g. with the endowment of the Wild Scholarships for the M.A. in American Studies program.

### **Dr. Kurt Bock**

Dr. Kurt Bock is Chairman of the Board of Executive Directors of BASF. Since 2003 he has been a Member of the Board of Executive Directors and served as Chief Financial Officer of the BASF Group, responsible for Finance, Corporate Controlling, Global Procurement & Logistics, and Information Services as well as for Corporate Audit. In this capacity, his responsibilities also included the North America regional division. Dr. Bock was born in Rahden, Germany, in 1958. From 1977 to 1982, he studied business administration at the universities of Münster and Cologne as well as at Pennsylvania State University. He received his doctorate in economics from the University of Bonn in 1985. He joined BASF's Finance Division in 1985 and served as executive assistant to the CFO until 1991 and as Head of Technology, Planning and Controlling, Engineering Plastics division, until 1992. In 1992 he joined the Robert Bosch GmbH in Stuttgart, first as Senior Vice President, Finance and Accounting, before becoming Managing Director of Bosch Brazil. In 1998 he returned to BASF, this time as CFO of BASF Corporation, Mount Olive, New Jersey. In 2000 Dr. Bock became President of Logistics & Information Services at BASF headquarters in Ludwigshafen. As a member of the Schurman Foundation he has been involved in promoting research and education in American history and culture at Heidelberg University for many years.



### **Dr. Martin Bussmann**

Dr. Martin Bussmann is a Trustee of the Mannheim Trust in New York. He is Managing Director of Mannheim LLC and also active in other portfolio companies of the Mannheim Trust. He spent 15 years in the health care and chemical industry with Knoll AG, Abbott Laboratories, and BASF in Europe and in the United States. Dr. Bussmann obtained his law degree from Heidelberg University in 1975 and was a visiting scholar at Harvard Law School in 1977. He received his Dr. juris. utriusque degree from Heidelberg University in 1978.



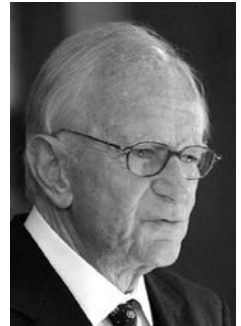
### **Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Bernhard Eitel**

Professor Bernhard Eitel studied geography, German philology, and literature at the University of Karlsruhe. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Stuttgart in 1989 and his *venia legendi* from the same university in 1994 with a study on calcium-rich cover beds and calcrete generations in Namibia. Prior to coming to Heidelberg, Professor Eitel taught at the University of Passau. Since 2001, he has held the Chair in Physical Geography and has also acted as Head of the Department of Geography at Heidelberg University. His major fields of research are in geomorphology, geoecology, the Quaternary research, soil geography, geoarchaeology, and dryland areas. His major research areas besides geography are drylands in Namibia, Peru and China. In October of 2007, Professor Eitel assumed the office of Rector of Heidelberg University.



### **Curt Engelhorn**

Curt Engelhorn was born in Munich. From 1947 to 1952 he lived in the U.S., where he studied chemical engineering at the University of Texas at Austin. After graduation and a traineeship at a pharmaceutical company, Curt Engelhorn returned to Germany, working at the Munich-based chemical company Perutz. In 1955 he joined the pharmaceutical family business of C.F. Boehringer & Söhne GmbH, later called Boehringer Mannheim. From 1960 to 1990, Curt Engelhorn served as the company's CEO, transforming it from a medium-sized manufacturer of therapeutics to a leading global producer of health care products. He retreated from operative business in 1990 to become Chairman of the Board of Corange Ltd., which held his and his partners' shares in Boehringer Mannheim. In 1997 they were sold to Hoffmann-La Roche. Curt Engelhorn is a patron of many charitable projects in Germany and abroad, supporting the arts and culture as well as research and education. He was named Honorary Senator of Heidelberg University in 1959. His support of the university includes the endowment of a Seminar Center, a Chair in American History, major donations to the Schurman Library for American History, the generous dedication of the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais and an annual donation of 400,000 EUR to the HCA over the next ten years; most recently he made possible an annex to the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, which was dedicated in October 2009 and provides the HCA with new academic facilities. In 2011, on the occasion of the 625th anniversary of the Ruperto Carola, Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn funded the lavish renovation of the Aula of the "New University."



## **Heidemarie Engelhorn**

Heidemarie Engelhorn was born in Munich, where she studied at the College of Business Administration. In 1970 she moved to Italy to manage a company founded by her first husband. Orm Berggold Chemistry soon acquired an excellent reputation for dependable top quality chemical products and became very profitable. Heidemarie Engelhorn sold the company to Safety Kleen in 1991 after the death of her first husband. In 1995 she was married to Curt Engelhorn. She has since been instrumental in selecting and shaping many charitable projects of her husband, especially the extraordinary support of sustainable and far-sighted projects at Heidelberg University. In 2008, Heidemarie Engelhorn was named Honorary Senator of the university for her unfailing commitment to and support for the promotion of American Studies in Heidelberg.



## **Soheyl Ghaemian**

Soheyl Ghaemian was born in Teheran/Iran, grew up in Heidelberg and studied computer sciences at the University of Karlsruhe. Prior to completing his studies, Ghaemian had already been active in staffing projects and quickly recognized the growing demand for flexibility in the German labor market, especially in the sectors of IT and engineering. In 2002, he founded a one-man company, Reutax, which has now grown into a corporation with 200 regular employees and 2000 freelancers. Operational headquarters of the three companies under the roof of Reutax AG are located in Heidelberg with subsidiaries in Los Angeles, Moscow, Prague, Vienna, Zurich and Milan. The Reutax Group's steering committee is located in Zürich. Reutax Corp. is not only the fastest growing company in the German staffing market, but also the only remaining independent company in the branch that is run by its founder. The Heidelberg based Ghaemian Foundation supports activities in the fields of culture, sports, and the sciences. Furthermore, Ghaemian is an active member of the Rotary Club Heidelberg-Schloss and the Heidelberg Club International.



### **Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker**

The Founding Director of the HCA was born in Pinneberg near Hamburg. He studied history, political science, philosophy, and German philology in Innsbruck and Kiel, where he earned his Ph.D. in 1969. He was appointed Associate Professor at the University of Stuttgart in 1974 and started teaching Modern History at Heidelberg University in 1975. From 1994 to 1999, Professor Junker served as the Director of the German Historical Institute (GHI) in Washington, D.C. and then returned to Heidelberg University, where he held the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History from 1999 to 2004. The foci of his research are U.S. foreign policy in the twentieth century, German history, international relations and the history of transatlantic relations, and the theory of history. His most important recent publications include his monograph *Power and Mission. Was Amerika antreibt* (2003) and the two volume handbook *The United States and Germany in the Era of the Cold War 1945-1990* (2004), which he edited. In 2005, Professor Junker was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of the University of Maryland—University College Europe (UMUC) in Heidelberg. In 2007, he was appointed Distinguished Senior Professor of Heidelberg University. In 2009, Professor Junker was elected president of the American Studies Network Association (ASN) Europe. In September 2010, he received the Federal Cross of Merit for his exceptional support of American Studies as a discipline, his academic teaching and his administrative abilities.



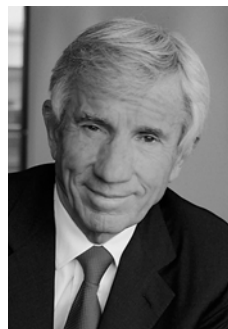
### **Rolf Kentner**

Rolf Kentner studied business administration in Germany and the United States, graduating with the degree of Diplomkaufmann from the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg in 1973. After holding positions for an international commercial bank in Germany, Great Britain, Italy, and the United States, he joined the Baden-Württembergische Bank AG in Mannheim in 1982 as a member of the general management. From 2005 until his retirement in 2009, he headed the Corporate Clients Key Account II of Baden-Württembergische Bank. Rolf Kentner is active in many charitable organizations, among others as Chairman of the Society for the Promotion of the Schurman Library for American History at the History Department of Heidelberg University, and as Chairman of the Jacob Gould Schurman Foundation. Both organizations are named after the Heidelberg Alumnus Jacob Schurman, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Germany from 1925 to 1930, and both have been crucial in the establishment of the Curt Engelhorn Chair for American History as well as of the HCA. Rolf Kentner is Honorary Senator of Heidelberg University and of the Mannheim University for Applied Sciences. In 2009, he endowed the annual Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize for a yet unpublished outstanding dissertation in American Studies at a German university.



### **Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger**

Manfred Lautenschläger studied law at the universities of Heidelberg, Freiburg, and Hamburg. After graduating in 1968, he practiced as a lawyer for a short time before co-founding the Marschollek, Lautenschläger und Partner KG (MLP) in 1971. Following its conversion into a public limited company in 1984, Manfred Lautenschläger assumed the position of CEO, expanding the company to one of Germany's leading suppliers of financial consultation services. From 1999 to 2008, he was Chairman of the Supervisory Board of MLP Group; since then he has been a member of the Supervisory Board. For many years, Manfred Lautenschläger has been actively supporting Heidelberg University, e.g. with the provision of the biennial Lautenschläger Research Prize, endowed with 250,000 EUR, and the new building of the university's children's hospital, partly funded by a donation from the Manfred Lautenschläger Foundation. In 1998, Lautenschläger was named Honorary Senator of the University. Recognizing that Germany owes the United States a special debt of gratitude for its democratic and prosperous development after World War II, Manfred Lautenschläger is convinced that a center such as the HCA can foster mutual understanding, especially in times when political differences create irritations in transatlantic relations. In October of 2008, Manfred Lautenschläger was awarded an honorary doctorate from Heidelberg University. In 2010 he generously underwrote the James W.C. Pennington Award, created by the HCA and the Faculty of Theology of Heidelberg University to honor the African American abolitionist and pacifist.



### **Dr. Bernd-A. von Maltzan**

Until his retirement in 2011, Dr. Bernd von Maltzan was the Vice Chairman of Deutsche Bank's global division Private Wealth Management. Before that, he was responsible for the build-up of the Private Banking division. Until 1996 he headed Deutsche Bank's investment banking in Germany. Prior to that, Dr. von Maltzan held global responsibility for Deutsche Bank's Trading & Sales activities. He joined Deutsche Bank in 1978 after finishing his doctorate in Business Administration at the University of Bonn, Germany. He studied Economics in Munich and Bonn from 1971 to 1975. Before that he served as an officer in the German army. Dr. von Maltzan is a member of several advisory boards in privately held companies. Additionally, he is active in various international non-profit organizations. Among others, he has been nominated as Chairman of the Königswinter Foundation (German-British Society) and is the Founding President of the American Berlin Opera Foundation, New York. A few years ago he won the Cultural Award of "Elyseum – Between the Two Continents," a transatlantic cultural institution. Since its inception Dr. von Maltzan has been an avid supporter of the HCA.





## HCA Board of Directors

The Board of Directors of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies consists of members from the six faculties that contribute to the HCA. These are the Faculties of Chemistry and Earth Sciences; Economics and Social Studies; Law; Modern Languages; Philosophy; and Theology. The six representatives adopted the proposal of Professor Peter Hommelhoff, then Rector of Heidelberg University, and named Professor Detlef Junker the Founding Director of the HCA. The late Professor Winfried Brugger and Professor Michael Welker were named Deputy Directors.

### Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

On the HCA's Board of Directors, Professor Berg represents the Faculty of Philosophy, where he has served as dean since October 2010. He has held the Curt Engelhorn Chair in American History since September 2005. From 1992 to 1997, Professor Berg was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Subsequently he taught at the Free University of Berlin, Cologne University, and the University of Erlangen-Nürnberg. He also served as executive director of the Center for USA Studies at the University of Halle-Wittenberg. The foci of his research and teaching are African-American History, the history of mob violence, and the history of U.S. foreign relations. He is the author of *The Ticket to Freedom: The NAACP and the Struggle for Black Political Integration* (2005) and *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (2011). In 2006 Professor Berg received the David Thelen Award from the Organization of American Historians (OAH) for the best article on American history published in a foreign language. In the spring of 2009 Manfred Berg served as the Lewis P. Jones Visiting Professor of History at Wofford College in Spartanburg, South Carolina.



### Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard

Ulrike Gerhard is professor for Human Geography of North America at the HCA and the Geography Department. Previously she has taught North American Studies as well as Urban Geography at the Universities of Würzburg, München and Heidelberg. She studied geography at Marburg and Waterloo, Canada, and received her Ph.D. in 1998 from Marburg University doing research on urban consumer landscapes in Canada and Germany. Since then she has studied the political geography of North American cities, spending several months in Washington, D.C., and other urban centers (*Global City Washington, D.C. – eine politische Stadtgeographie*, 2007). Her most recent research deals with urban inequality in the Americas, the discursive structuring of cities as well as consumerism in North America and Europe.





### **Prof. Dr. Bernd Grzeszick**

Bernd Grzeszick studied law at the universities of Bonn, Freiburg and Heidelberg. In 1992 he passed his First State Examination. From 1992 to 1993 he worked as a research assistant at the University of Freiburg and pursued LL.M.-studies at Cambridge University in 1993 and 1994. From 1994 to 1996 he completed his Referendariat, during which he also practiced in Paris and New York. In 1995 he was awarded a doctoral degree (Dr. iur.) for his dissertation on the development of federalist thinking in Germany, *Vom Reich zur Bundesstaatsidee. Zur Herausbildung der Föderalismusidee im modernen deutschen Staatsrecht* (1996). In 1996, after having passed the Second State Examination in Berlin, Bernd Grzeszick acceded to the position of assistant professor, first at Mannheim University, later at the University of Cologne. In 2001 Bernd Grzeszick received his *venia legendi*, having written a Habilitation thesis on rights, claims, and the reconstruction of state liability from individual rights (*Rechte und Ansprüche. Eine Rekonstruktion des Staatshaftungsrechts aus den subjektiven öffentlichen Rechten*, 2002). Afterwards he was a visiting professor at the universities of Erlangen-Nuremberg, Bonn and Münster, where he was appointed Professor for Public Law in 2003. In 2004 he assumed the chair for Public Law, International Public Law and Legal Philosophy at the University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, where he also served as Director of the Institute for Legal Philosophy and General Theory of the State. In 2009 Bernd Grzeszick was appointed Professor for Public Law, International Public Law and Legal Philosophy at the University of Mainz. Since 2010 he holds the chair for Public Law, International Public Law and Legal Philosophy as well as the directorship of the Institute for Constitutional Law, Constitutional Theory and Legal Philosophy at the University of Heidelberg. He joined the HCA's Board of Directors in 2011.



### **Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch**

Sebastian Harnisch is professor for International Relations and Comparative Foreign Policy and Director of the Institute for Political Science at the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences. He taught international relations, German and American foreign and security policy at Trier University (2003-2006), the Federal Armed Forces University, Munich (2006-2007), and recently at Beijing Foreign Studies University (2011). Sebastian Harnisch holds degrees in history and political science from Trier University (M.A., Doctorate and Habilitation) and was research fellow at JCIE (Tokyo, 1996), Columbia University (New York, 1996), Yonsei and Seoul National University (Seoul, 1996-1997) and Heidelberg's Center of Excellency, the Marsilius-Kolleg (2011). He has published widely on U.S. Foreign and Security Policy, including a monograph on U.S.-Korean relations (1850-1995) and most recently an edited volume on *Role Theory in International Relations* (2011). Professor Harnisch joined the HCA Board of Directors in 2010.



### **Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt**

Günter Leypoldt is professor of American literature and culture at the Faculty of Modern Languages. He taught American Studies at the universities of Tübingen (2001-2007), Maryland–College Park (2003), and Mainz (2007-2009). Günter Leypoldt holds degrees in American, British, and German literatures from Cape Town (B.A.) and Tübingen (doctorate and habilitation). He has published essays on literary transcendentalism, eighteenth- and nineteenth-century aesthetics, twentieth-century literary and cultural theory, and a monograph on contemporary fiction, *Casual Silences: The Poetics of Minimal Realism* (2001). His most recent study deals with nineteenth-century U.S. literary culture and its modernist reconstruction, *Cultural Authority in the Age of Whitman: A Transatlantic Perspective* (2009). His present research interests include transatlantic romanticism and modernism, American pragmatism, transculturality, the borders between aesthetic and religious experience, and the sociology of knowledge formation. Professor Leypoldt joined the Board of Directors in 2009.



### **Prof. Dr. Dr. Dr. h.c. Michael Welker**

Professor Michael Welker represents the Faculty of Theology on the Board. He teaches systematic theology with a focus on new theories in Anglo-American theology at Heidelberg University. Professor Welker served as Director of the Internationales Wissenschaftsforum Heidelberg from 1996 to 2006. He taught at both Harvard and Princeton universities and is currently Administrative Director of the Forschungszentrum für Internationale und Interdisziplinäre Theologie (FIIT) in Heidelberg. Professor Welker is co-editor of *The End of the World and the Ends of God: Sciences and Theology on Eschatology* (2002), *Reformed Theology: Identity and Ecumenicity* (2007), *Clashes of Knowledge* (2008), and *Which Forms and Themes Should Christian Theology Uphold in Dialogue with Secular Culture?* (2009). The fourth edition of his work *Gottes Geist. Theologie des Heiligen Geistes* was published in 2010.



## Foundation and Development of the HCA

In January of 2002, a group of Heidelberg professors and administrators, incited by Prof. Detlef Junker, set up an interdisciplinary initiative with the aim of establishing a new center for the study of the United States of America at Germany's oldest university. The first order of business of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) was to develop a novel postgraduate studies program: the Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS). To raise public awareness of its activities, the HCA initiative also organized a public lecture series, "Typically American," during the winter term 2002-03, which soon attracted a broad audience. Within a year of its creation, the HCA opened a small office from which it continued to develop the MAS and future research projects and conferences.

Ten departments from six faculties committed themselves to the program, enabling a broad range of disciplines to be represented at the HCA: American Literature and Culture, Economics, Geography, History, Law, Musicology, Philosophy, Political Science, Theological Studies, and Sociology.

In December of 2003, thanks to the generous support of Heidelberg entrepreneur and philanthropist Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, the HCA was able to settle into more spacious quarters in Heidelberg's beautiful Weststadt.

Four months later, the center hosted its first conference, the HCA Spring Academy 2004 on American History, Culture, and Politics. Twenty-six European and American Ph.D. students from ten countries and six academic disciplines participated in this conference. The annual Spring Academy has since become a highly regarded forum for international Ph.D. students in the field of American Studies.

After Heidelberg University and the Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts of the State of Baden-Württemberg both approved the statutes of the HCA as well as the regulations governing the proposed new Master's program, the HCA was officially inaugurated as a central academic institution at Heidelberg University on October 20, 2004. Prof. Detlef Junker was appointed Founding Director. Simultaneously, the first class of the MAS program enrolled. A Board of Directors was established, convening for the first time in December of 2004, and was subsequently joined by a Board of Trustees.

In 2005, the HCA guided the 15 students of the initial MAS Class of 2005 to the completion of their master's degrees and hosted the second Spring Academy. It also laid the groundwork for an ambitious research agenda. In 2006 the European Commission decided to support the research project "European Protest Movements since the Cold War. The Rise and Fall of a (Trans-) National Civil Society and the Transformation of the Public Sphere." The project was co-developed and coordinated by HCA fellow Dr. Martin Klimke as part of the EU's Marie Curie Actions program. Furthermore, renowned scholars from Europe and the United States assembled at the HCA from October 5-8, 2006, to discuss the relationship of "State and Market in a Globalized World: Transatlantic Perspectives." Also in October of 2006, the HCA celebrated the graduation of its second MAS class and proudly welcomed the first students to its new Ph.D. in American Studies program.

This substantial expansion of activities would not have been possible had it not been for another major donation. In early 2006, Curt Engelhorn acquired the "Haus Neukirch," a beautiful baroque

town house in the heart of Heidelberg's historic city center. With restorations still under way, the HCA moved into its new home, the Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais, in May of 2006.

The Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais opened up a whole new range of possibilities for the HCA. In order to fully realize the new potential, Heidelberg University, the State of Baden-Württemberg, and private donors agreed to set up a matching fund for the future development of the HCA. This fund enabled the HCA to initiate a joint venture with the American Academy in Berlin, bringing renowned fellows of that prestigious institution to the region as part of the Academy's Baden-Württemberg Seminar. In addition, the HCA was able to introduce a year-round Junior Fellow-in-Residence program in 2007 and add another three young scholars to its staff, thereby broadening its research and teaching capacities.

The EU-sponsored research project on protest movements convened two major international conferences in 2007, one at the University of Zurich, the other at the HCA. The center also hosted a seminal conference on "Global Dimensions of Racism in the Modern World: Comparative and Transnational Perspectives," organized by Prof. Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History and generously supported by the Fritz Thyssen Foundation and the Schurman Association for the Promotion of American History at Heidelberg University.

The year 2008 was also very busy. Aside from its ongoing programs – the MAS and Ph.D. in American Studies, the Spring Academy, and the Baden-Württemberg Seminar – the HCA launched a major new research project on "The Transcultural Atlantic: Constructing Communities in a Global Context – Past, Present, and Future." Funding for

this project was provided by the Global Networks branch of Heidelberg University's Excellence Initiative program as well as by the Stiftung Deutsch-Amerikanische Wissenschaftsbeziehungen and the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology. In addition, the HCA acquired a grant from the FRONTIER program of Heidelberg University for a project examining "Images of America in the World after 9/11: A Data-Driven Approach to Semantic Imprints of Texts." Finally, the HCA supported Dr. Simon Wendt, assistant professor of American History at Heidelberg University's History Department, in his successful bid to become a research group leader in the university's Transcultural Studies program. The highlight of the 2008 conferences and workshops was the 55th Annual Convention of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA), co-hosted by the HCA and Heidelberg University. 2008 also saw a major overhaul of the HCA's Master's program, extending the MAS from two to three semesters and submitting the redesigned program for accreditation. The new MAS was preliminarily accredited in December 2008 and eventually received its full stamp of approval for the next five years in December 2009.

The year 2009 opened with a record number of applications pouring in for the HCA Spring Academy. One-hundred and thirty-two applications from 28 countries testified to both the strong appeal and the global prestige of the program. Next to the Spring Academy, the HCA either hosted or supported numerous scholarly workshops and international conferences throughout the year, including events in Berlin, Heidelberg, Philadelphia, and Zurich.

A major development was the commitment of Heidelberg University in the spring of 2009 to provide funding for the HCA on a permanent basis once its start-up financing expired. In light of this re-

assuring news the HCA could celebrate the fifth anniversary of its founding (and the 70th birthday of its Founding Director) at Heidelberg Castle. The center's vibrant growth continued after these festivities. In October, the HCA not only celebrated its fifth commencement but also dedicated its new academic facilities, a modern annex to the landmark palais. The fall of 2009 also saw the first semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar under the exclusive direction of the HCA.

In late November of 2009, the HCA learned that its application – supported by Heidelberg University – for the creation of two professorships to be shared with the Department of Geography and the Faculty of Theology, respectively, had been approved by the state government. These professorships were allocated under a special program designed to alleviate the impact of two classes of secondary school graduates hitting German universities in the same year, 2012. In the spring of 2011, Ulrike Gerhard came to the HCA as Professor of Geography of North America, and Jan Stievermann joined the HCA as Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States. A few months earlier, the HCA had successfully completed negotiations with the Anglistisches Seminar over a joint appointment of Günter Leyboldt, Professor of American Literature and Culture. This was the second appointment after Manfred Berg, the Curt Engelhorn Chair of American History, in 2009. With two “bridge pro-

fessors” and two joint appointments, the HCA has now established firm operational “bridges” to the departments of History, English, Geography, and Theology.

This development went hand in hand, however, with new obligations, as the HCA was required to establish a new B.A. program in order to create the necessary capacities for the anticipated students. The first half of 2010 was therefore dominated by conceptualizing a new course of studies that would be true to the HCA's multidisciplinary custom, yet geared toward a different, i.e. undergraduate, clientele. Under the guidance of Dr. Andreas Barz from the Dezernat für Studium und Lehre, and with support from the Faculties of Philosophy, Theology, Chemistry and Earth Sciences, Modern Languages, Economics and Social Sciences, and Law, as well as several student representatives, the B.A. in American Studies (BAS) was developed in record time and shepherded through the bodies of the university. When the Baden-Württemberg Ministry of Science, Research, and the Arts finally authorized the results, barely four weeks were left before the university's application period for the fall term closed. Nevertheless, we received 140 applications for the newly hatched BAS, admitted 50 applicants, and in October 2010 opened the semester with a splendid group of 20 students. In October of 2011, the HCA welcomed 21 new students of the BAS class of 2014.

## The Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais: History and Architecture of Our Flourishing Home



The Curt und Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais on Hauptstraße 120

The home of the HCA is a beautiful old Bürgerpalais with a long history. The location can be traced back to 1564. In 1699, the "Haus Neukirch" was purchased by Burkhard Neukirch. The current structure was built at the beginning of the eighteenth century, making the home of the HCA in fact fifty years older than its subject of study, the United States of America. In 2006, the former "Haus Neukirch" was renamed in honor of Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, who bought the building and generously granted the HCA rent-free use of the rooms for ten years.

Within walking distance of the University Library, the Mensa, the New University, the Old University, and many important university departments, the

Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn Palais is the ideal location for students and faculty alike. It also is an architectural gem, particularly the decorative stucco on the walls and ceilings of the second floor. The extensive restoration of the Bel Etage, revealed carvings long lost to coats of paint, with lions' heads, musical instruments, roses and women's faces literally coming out of the ceiling.

Thanks to the generosity of the Engelhorn family, a modern annex to the historic building was envisioned from the very start in the interior courtyard separating the Palais from the student cafeteria and main university library. In October 2009, Honorary Senators Curt and Heidemarie Engelhorn, Heidelberg Mayor Dr. Joachim Gerner, Heidelberg University Rector Prof. Dr. rer. nat. habil. Bernhard Eitel, HCA Founding Director Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, sponsors and friends of the HCA, staff members, students, and guests gathered after the MAS Commencement for the official dedication of the HCA's new academic facilities. The annex comprises a new lecture room, an elevator, a kitchen equipped for event catering, and additional restrooms. The most spectacular feature of the new building, however, is a 360-square-meter, glass-covered atrium with a corkscrew staircase, making the entire space available for use as an auditorium, exhibition room or concert hall.

The two seminar rooms, called Stucco and Oculus for their signature architectural features, have been outfitted with interactive whiteboards that combine integrated sound and Dual-User functionality. Thus, the HCA is well-prepared to host not only its new BAS, MAS and Ph.D. students but also increasing numbers of international conferences and workshops.

## People 2010-2011

### Jan Bauer

Ph.D. Administration

Jan Bauer is part of the BAS 2013 at the HCA. Since July 2011 he has been working as a student assistant in the HCA's Ph.D. program.



### Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

Professor of History

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### Maria Diaconu, M.A.

TA Literature

Maria Diaconu received her B.A. from the University of Bucharest, Romania, majoring in English and minoring in American Studies, with a B.A. thesis about the Beat Generation writers and the American avant-garde movements. She completed an M.A. degree in American Studies at Heidelberg University with her thesis "Narrating Memory: A comparative study of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*." At the moment, she is in the process of finishing her dissertation that deals with the post 9/11 novel. She has also worked as a tutor for American literature in the HCA's MAS.



### Dr. Tobias Endler

Research Associate/Ph.D. Coordinator

Tobias Endler studied English, political science, and German in Heidelberg and London. He received his state exam in 2006. During his studies he specialized in American politics and culture studies with a particular focus on intellectual life in the United States. In 2007-08, Endler taught at Yale University. During this time, he also conducted a series of interviews with leading public intellectuals such as Noam Chomsky, Francis Fukuyama, Zbigniew Brzezinski, and Anne-Marie Slaughter. The interview collection was published as *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S., and Themselves* in 2011. Endler defended his dissertation in July 2011. His research focuses on the role and self-perception of twenty-first century American intellectuals. Currently, Endler is the HCA's Ph.D. and Research Coordinator.





## **Martha Erhard**

### Conference Organization

Martha Erhard received her B.A. from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2008 majoring in history and German. She taught high school in Darmstadt and was a Fulbright fellow before entering a Master's program in European History at Heidelberg University. From June to September 2011, she joined the HCA to help organize the conference „Zeitenwende 11. September? Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach.“



## **Kirsten Fischer, Ph.D.**

### Fulbright Professor of History

Kirsten Fischer received her MA and Ph.D. in history from Duke University. After six years at the University of South Florida in Tampa, she moved to the University of Minnesota where she is now a tenured associate professor of early American history. Her first book, *Suspect Relations: Sex, Race, and Resistance in Colonial North Carolina* (2002), shows how ordinary people participated in the construction of racialized thought in this developing slave society. She also co-edited *Colonial American History*, a collection of scholarly essays and primary sources (2002). Kirsten Fischer's current research interests pertain to American religious history, especially the presence of freethought in the early Republic. She is writing a book about Elihu Palmer (1764-1806), an ardent advocate in New York of the most radical ideas coming out of the European Enlightenment. Kirsten Fischer was the Deutsche Bank Junior Fellow at the HCA in 2008-2009, and returned in 2010 as a Fulbright fellow. Kirsten Fischer enjoys teaching and in 2011 she received an award from the University of Minnesota for outstanding contributions to undergraduate education.



## **Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung**

### University Lecturer, American Studies

Dorothea Fischer-Hornung is Senior Lecturer in the English Department of Heidelberg University. Her research focuses on ethnic and post-colonial literatures and film in English as well as performance theories and practices. She has developed, taught, and published on international e-learning cooperations with universities in numerous countries. She is founding co-editor of the journal *Atlantic Studies* and president of MESEA, Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas. Dr. Fischer-Hornung teaches the MAS course "Methodology I: Introduction to American Studies" and annually facilitates the HCA Spring Academy.





### **Luisa Gaa**

#### **Research/Conference Organization**

Luisa Gaa has been attending the HCA since the winter term 2010-11 as a student of the first BAS class. Since April 2011 she has been a research assistant at the HCA and served as a co-coordinator of the international conference "Religion and the Marketplace," held in October 2011.



### **Prof. Dr. Erich Geldbach**

#### **Professor of Religious Studies**

Prof. Dr. Erich Geldbach studied Protestant theology and English philology at Philipps-University Marburg and received his D.D. in 1969. After his Habilitation in 1974, Geldbach was a professor at Philipps-University Marburg and held visiting professorships at the Harvard Divinity School, the Eastern Baptist Seminary, Philadelphia, and the Whitney College in Melbourne. He worked as a full-time consultant at the Ecumenical Research Center in Bensheim from 1981 until 1996. From 1997 until his retirement in 2004 he was professor of ecumenical studies at Ruhr-University Bochum. He taught the religious studies course for the MAS on "One Hundred Years of American Fundamentalism" during the winter semester 2010-11 as well as two courses for the new BAS.



### **Prof. Dr. Ulrike Gerhard**

#### **Professor of Geography**

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### **Iris Hahn-Santoro, M.A.**

#### **BAS Coordinator**

Iris Hahn-Santoro received her M.A. in linguistics, Scandinavian Studies and philosophy from the University of Cologne in 2002. She wrote her thesis on anglicisms and neologisms in contemporary Icelandic, focusing on computer terminology. After receiving her M.A., Hahn-Santoro served as a research assistant at the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C. She joined the HCA in August of 2009 as the MAS program coordinator and took over the coordination of the BAS following the establishment of the program in 2011. She is also in the HCA's Ph.D. program researching endangered Native American languages.



**Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch**

Professor of Political Science  
(see page 19)

**Clara Höhn**

Event Management

Clara Höhn has been a student at Heidelberg University since 2008, majoring in history and political science. She joined the HCA in March 2010 as a student assistant and is now primarily responsible for event management. She also supports the HCA's Public Relations Department.

**Jens Hofmann, M.A.**

Publications/Research

Jens Hofmann joined the HCA in early 2009. He served as a research and publications assistant as well as coordinator for the conference "Religion and the Marketplace." He studied history, political science and English literature at Heidelberg University and the University of Edinburgh. Hofmann received his M.A. in early 2009. Currently, Jens Hofmann is working on his Ph.D. thesis pre-titled "Subsidized Hegemony? The Problem of the Offset Agreements in U.S.-German Relations, 1960-1976." In August 2011, Jens Hofmann was awarded the Schurman Scholarship for American History. He left the HCA to pursue archival research for his doctoral thesis in the United States.

**Dr. Mischa Honeck**

Research Associate/Ph.D. Coordinator

Mischa Honeck is a research associate at the HCA and currently a postdoctoral fellow for North American history at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. He studied medieval and modern history, English, and philosophy at Heidelberg University and Portland State University, Oregon. He earned his Ph.D. from Heidelberg University in 2008. His first book, *We Are the Revolutionists: German-Speaking Immigrants and American Abolitionists after 1848*, published by the University of Georgia Press in 2011, explores the involvement of refugees of the European Revolutions of 1848/49 in the struggle for black emancipation. For his research, he was recently awarded the SDAW Prize of the German Association for American Studies (DGfA). A new book project on the international dimensions of American boy scouting from the Progressive Era to the early Cold War is in the making.



**Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker**

Founding Director  
(see page 16)

**Christian Kempf**

Publishing

Since 2006, Christian Kempf has been studying history and religious studies at Heidelberg University. He joined the HCA in March 2009 as part of the MAS-Team and was responsible for the MAS Newsletter and the MAS Reader. After an internship at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. in the summer of 2010, he rejoined the HCA and since then creates much of its graphic design. He also supports the publishing of the annual report.

**Eva-Maria Kiefer, M.A.**

BAS-Coordinator

Eva-Maria Kiefer received her M.A. in American Studies, political science and psychology from Bonn University. Since October 2010 she has been a Ph.D. student at the HCA, focusing on how fear and threat shaped U.S. congressional behavior after 9/11. She joined the HCA staff in September 2010 as coordinator for the BAS.

**Dr. Martin Klimke**

Research Associate (on leave)

Martin Klimke studied at the University of Göttingen, Amherst College and Heidelberg University, where he received both his M.A. and his Ph.D. in 2002 and 2005 respectively. From 2006 to 2010, Klimke was coordinator and research-fellow-in-charge of the project "European Protest Movements since the Cold War," supported by the Marie Curie Action program of the European Union. From 2007-2011, Klimke was a visiting/permanent research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Starting in 2012, he will be an associate professor of history at New York University Abu Dhabi.



## **Matthias Kutsch**

Conference Organization/Research

Matthias Kutsch studies history and political science at Heidelberg University. He joined the HCA in July 2009 as a student research assistant. Matthias organized the UNESCO History Conference “UNESCO and the Cold War” and the ERP Conference “Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World – Past, Present and Future.”



## **Christina Larenz**

Office Manager

Christina Larenz concluded her studies at the English Institute Heidelberg as a translator for English, French, and Spanish in 1988. Since then she has worked in various branches of industry and administration. She has also worked as a translator and a foreign language teacher. She joined the HCA team in September of 2008 and is responsible for the institute’s administrative matters.



## **Dr. Steven Less, Esq.**

Lecturer - Law

Dr. Less is a senior research fellow at the Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law in Heidelberg, where he is also employed as the managing editor of the MPI’s semi-annual bibliography of public international law. He belongs to both the New Jersey and New York bar associations. Dr. Less worked for a general practice law firm in NJ before coming to Heidelberg on a DAAD grant. He has an undergraduate degree in history from Middlebury College in Vermont. After receiving a law degree from Seton Hall University School of Law in New Jersey, Dr. Less obtained his doctorate at Heidelberg University. His doctoral thesis concerned involuntary commitment to psychiatric institutions in the United States and Germany. Dr. Less has also written articles on American and international law, including an extensive survey of American law on terrorism and an in-depth case study on Holocaust reparations. As an adjunct lecturer for the law faculty at Heidelberg University, he has offered a three-semester introduction to Anglo-American law and legal terminology, covering American constitutional law. He has also lectured on Anglo-American civil law in the same context. In addition, Dr. Less has taught international law and international human rights at Schiller International University in Heidelberg.



**Anne Lübbers, M.A.**

MAS Coordinator

Anne Lübbers studied political science, German philology, and Romance languages (Italian) at Heidelberg University and the University of Bologna, Italy. After receiving her M.A. in 2006, she started working on her Ph.D. thesis about Machiavelli's reception in the political romanticism in Italy. From 2003 to 2007, she worked as a research assistant for the HCA, where she was responsible for the organization of the Spring Academy and the Baden-Württemberg-Seminar. Since 2007, she has been working as MAS coordinator. In 2010 she was instrumental in developing and implementing the B.A. program at the HCA. Anne Lübbers also taught literature seminars at the Romance language department and is the editor of the online journal "Helix – Heidelberger Beiträge zur romanischen Literaturwissenschaft" and the book series "Helix im Winter" published by Winter Verlag.

**Dr. Wilfried Mausbach**

Executive Director

Wilfried Mausbach received his Ph.D. from the University of Cologne where he studied history, political science, and philosophy. He was a research fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and held assistant professorships in history at both the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin and Heidelberg University, where he also was a Volkswagen Foundation fellow. His major research interests are in transnational and intercultural history with a focus on German-American relations during the twentieth century. He is the author of *Zwischen Morgenthau und Marshall: Das wirtschaftspolitische Deutschlandkonzept der USA 1944-1947* (1996), and co-editor of *America, the Vietnam War, and the World. Comparative and International Perspectives* (2003), and of *Changing the World, Changing Oneself: Political Protest and Collective Identities in West Germany and the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s* (2010). Since 2005 he is the Executive Director of the HCA.



**Anja Milde, M.A.****Spring Academy**

Anja Milde received her B.A. in Philology and Communication Science in 2003 from the University of Erfurt. Since fall 2003, she has been a student at Heidelberg University, majoring in history and art history. Before joining the HCA's Master program in 2007, she spent a year on a Fulbright scholarship at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., where she majored in American Studies and after which she interned at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. During her studies, she specialized in American history, politics and constitutional law with a particular focus on social movements. She is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis on the linkages between the civil and gay rights movements. In 2009-10, Anja spent seven months in the U.S. researching her dissertation and conducting a series of interviews with leading figures of both movements, as well as politicians and intellectuals. Since fall 2007, Anja Milde has been working at the HCA as a public relations assistant and tutor for American history. In March 2010, she took on the position of Spring Academy coordinator. She also taught the BAS history tutorial in the winter semester of 2010-11.

**Hannes Nagl, M.A.****Website/Teaching Assistant**

Hannes Nagl studied English literature and political science at Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2009, he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program working on a thesis on "Figurations of Violence: Contemporary American Fiction and the Sociology of Modernization." From August 2010 to July 2011 he was a research assistant at the English Department as part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture." At the HCA, he is responsible for the institute's website and is working as a teaching assistant for American literature.

**Vera Neubecker****Office Assistant**

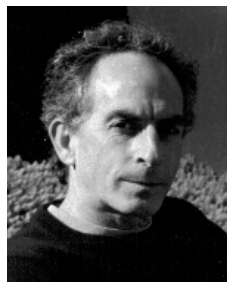
Since 2008, Vera Neubecker has been studying history and religious studies at Heidelberg University. She joined the HCA in August 2010 and is working in the main office.



### **Charles Postel, Ph.D.**

Professor of American History

The Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence 2011-2012, Charles Postel is an associate professor of history at San Francisco State University. He has also taught at California State University, Sacramento, and at the University of California, Berkeley. Charles Postel earned both his B.A. in history (1995) and his Ph.D. in history (2002) from the University of California, Berkeley. He is the author of *The Populist Vision* (2007), a history of the original Populist movement of the 1890s, which received the Bancroft Prize in History and the Frederick Jackson Turner Award from the Organization of American Historians, two of the most prestigious prizes in the historical profession. His current book project is *Pursuit of Reform, 1865-1920*, a new interpretative work on the post-Civil War reform movements that culminated in the Progressive Era. Charles Postel is also researching the historical origins of the Tea Party movement.



### **Patrick Roberts, Ph.D.**

Professor of Political Science

Patrick S. Roberts, the 2010-11 Ghaemian Fellow-in-Residence at the HCA, is an assistant professor with the Center for Public Administration and Policy (CPAP) at Virginia Tech University in Alexandria, Virginia. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of Virginia, an M.A. from Claremont Graduate University, and a B.A. from the University of Dallas. Patrick Roberts has been a postdoctoral fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University and at the Program on Constitutional Government at Harvard University. He has published in a variety of scholarly and popular journals, and his research has been funded by United States government agencies, the Social Science Research Council, and the National Science Foundation. His current project is a book manuscript titled *Disasters and the Democratic State: How Bureaucrats, Politicians, and the Public Prepare for the Unexpected*.



### **Katia Rostetter, M.A.**

MAS Coordinator

Katia Rostetter holds an M.A. in English literature, history and political science of South Asia. Since April 2010 she has been a Ph.D. candidate at the English Department, working on the American author Cormac McCarthy from a civilization studies perspective. She joined the HCA staff in September of 2010 as part of the MAS team and is currently teaching the Methodology course for the B.A. in American Studies.



### **Dr. Anthony Santoro**

Research Associate History/Religious Studies

Anthony Santoro studied English and History at the University of Virginia, where he obtained his B.A. in 1999. A member of the first MAS class at the HCA, he earned his M.A. in 2005. He then went on to join the HCA's Ph.D. program, completing the degree in 2010. His dissertation was entitled "Exile or Embrace: The Religious Discourse on the Death Penalty in the Contemporary Era." He is currently at work on his next research project, a theorization of the sports fan base as a congregation. His target subject is the Raider Nation, the fans dedicated to the NFL's Oakland Raiders. This project is part of a larger project funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG) entitled "Moderne religiöse Erlebnisgesellschaften: Mediale und ästhetische Präsentationen von Lehren christlich orientierter Organisationen in den USA."



### **Miriam Schimmelmann**

Office Manager

From November 2010 to September 2011, Miriam Schimmelmann was part of the front office team.



### **Amy Schmitz**

Student Assistant

Amy Schmitz has been a student at Heidelberg University since 2010 and is part of the Bachelor Class of 2013 in the American Studies program of the HCA. She currently works as a student assistant for Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann.





## **Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss**

Professor of American Literature

Prof. Dietmar Schloss teaches American literature and culture at the English Department of the University of Heidelberg. He holds a Ph.D. from Northwestern University and a postdoctoral degree (Habilitation) from Heidelberg University. As a Fellow of the American Council of Learned Societies, he was a visiting scholar at the English and History Departments at Harvard University. He has published widely in the fields of eighteenth-, nineteenth- and twentieth-century American literature and culture; his book *The Virtuous Republic* (2003) examines the political visions of American writers during the founding period of the United States. In 2009 he has published a volume of conference proceedings entitled *Civilizing America: Manners and Civility in American Literature and Culture* as well as a collection of critical essays on the contemporary American novel. In his new project, entitled "Spaces of Decivilization", he explores the phenomenon of violence in American literature and culture from the vantage point of Norbert Elias's sociological theory. In the MAS, Prof. Schloss taught the courses "Visions of America: Colonial Period and Early Republic" and "Visions of America: The Nineteenth Century", as well as the interdisciplinary seminar "The American Presidency: Literary, Cultural, & Political Perspectives" together with PD Dr. Martin Thunert.



## **Dr. Anja Schüler**

Coordinator Baden-Württemberg Seminar/Public Relations

Anja Schüler studied history, English and journalism at the University of Münster, the University of Georgia in Athens, and the Free University Berlin, where she earned an M.A. in American History. She was a DAAD Fellow at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and lived in Washington, D.C. for several years. She received her Ph.D. from the Free University of Berlin in 2000 with a dissertation on „Women's Movements and Social Reform: Jane Addams, Alice Salomon, and the Transatlantic Dialogue, 1889-1933.“ Her research interests include German and American social history, gender history, and transatlantic history. From 2006 to 2010, she taught at the University of Education in Heidelberg. Starting in 2006, she has been teaching Academic Writing at the HCA. Since 2009, she has also been responsible for the coordination of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar as well as for public relations.



**Daniel Silliman, M.A.**

Research Associate

Daniel Silliman joined the HCA in April 2011 as a research associate and instructor in American Religion. He studied philosophy at Hillsdale College in Michigan, where he completed two B.A. thesis projects, one on the possibility of a linguistic solution to the mind-body problem, and another on "Death of God" theology. He earned an M.A. in American Studies from the University of Tübingen, writing a master's thesis entitled, "Sacred Signs in a Secular Sky: The Problem of Pluralism in Apocalyptic Evangelical Fiction." He is building on that project for his Ph.D., researching how pluralism functions in contemporary evangelical faith fiction. He also worked for several years as a journalist, reporting on crime for a daily newspaper south of Atlanta, Georgia.

**Cristina Stanca Mustea, M.A.**

Ph.D.-Administration

Cristina Stanca-Mustea was part of the Ph.D. administration at the HCA from October 2009 to June 2011. She studied literature and American Studies at the University of Bucharest, where she received her B.A. in 2005. She was the recipient of the DAAD Fellowship as part of the STIBET program and received her M.A. in American Studies from Heidelberg University in 2006. Since then, she has been part of HCA's Ph.D. program with a thesis on Carl Laemmle and American film history.

**Laura Stapane, M.A.**

Project Coordinator

Laura Stapane studied history of art and media studies, history and political science at the University of Oldenburg. After finishing her M.A. thesis about family portraits as a reflection of bourgeois culture in the late 19th century ("The Wilhelmine Bourgeoisie as Depicted in Art: An Analysis of its Self-Presentation in Family Portraits"), she worked as an intern at the Florence Art Institute (Italy) and the German Historical Institute in Washington, DC. She is currently working for the HCA as a research fellow and project coordinator, where she is responsible for the coordination of the research, digitization and exhibition project "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany" as well as for "The Nuclear Crisis - Transatlantic Peace Politics, Rearmament, and the Second Cold War" project.



## **Johannes Steffens, M.A.**

### TA History

Johannes Steffens is a Ph.D. candidate in history at Heidelberg University, writing his dissertation on “The Racial Integration of the American Workplace: How U.S. and Foreign Companies Ended Racial Discrimination in Employment”. He studied English, American Studies, and history at Tuebingen University (B.A. 2007), the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and Heidelberg University (M.A. 2010). He worked as a teaching assistant for the MAS history lecture during the winter semester 2010-11 at the HCA. In 2011–2012, he is conducting extensive research for his dissertation in the U.S. as a visiting scholar of Columbia University, New York.



## **Julia Stehlin**

### Spring Academy

Julia Stehlin has been studying political science, Islamic Studies and Spanish at the University of Heidelberg since 2007. Besides gaining international experience in the USA, Spain and Turkey, she spent a semester at the Universidad Católica in Santiago de Chile with a DAAD-stipend in 2010-11 and worked as an intern at the German Consulate General in Boston. Since June 2011 she has been working at the HCA as student research assistant and is part of the Spring Academy team since September of the same year.



## **Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann**

Professor of the History of Christianity in the U.S.

Jan Stievermann came to the HCA in April 2011 as a joint appointment with the Faculty of Theology at Heidelberg University. He has published on a broad range of topics in the fields of American religious history and American literature, including articles for *Early American Literature* and *William and Mary Quarterly*. His book *Der Sündenfall der Nachahmung: Zum Problem der Mittelbarkeit im Werk Ralph Waldo Emersons* (2007) is a comprehensive study of the co-evolution of Emerson's religious and aesthetic thought. Together with Reiner Smolinski, he published *Cotton Mather and Biblia Americana—America's First Bible Commentary* (2010). He is currently working on a book tentatively titled *The Ethnic Fantastic*, which examines issues of spirituality in contemporary ethnic minority literatures. Concurrently, he leads a DFG-funded team transcribing and editing vol. 5 of Cotton Mather's hitherto unpublished *Biblia Americana*, the first comprehensive Bible commentary produced in British North America. For the *Biblia*-project as a whole (10 vols.) he also serves as the executive editor.



## **PD Dr. Martin Thunert**

Senior Lecturer Sociology/Political Science

Martin Thunert joined the HCA as research lecturer in political science in September 2007. He is a graduate of Johann-Wolfgang-Goethe University Frankfurt, holds a doctoral degree (Dr. phil.) from the University of Augsburg and received his Habilitation in political science from the University of Hamburg, where he was an assistant professor. Martin Thunert was an exchange student at the University of Glasgow, Scotland, and did graduate work at Queen's University, Kingston, Ontario, and at McGill University in Montreal, Quebec. He has held appointments in political studies at several German universities and spent four years (2002-2006) as visiting associate professor of political science at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. He was a Kennedy-Fellow at the Harvard Center for European Studies and has gained practical experience as staff assistant in the U.S. Senate (Labor, Education and Health Committee). For the MAS he teaches the political course on "Government and Politics of the United States" as well as the interdisciplinary seminar "The American Presidency: Literary, Cultural, & Political Perspectives" together with Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss. He also teaches an advanced BAS class on "Contemporary Populism in Europe and the United States".



## **Lara Track**

MAS

Since 2008, Lara Track has been studying history and sociology at Heidelberg University. She joined the HCA in December 2009 as a student assistant. After studying at Newcastle University, UK, for two semesters, she is now back at the HCA, working as a member of the MAS team and coordinating the MAS Newsletter.



## **Dipl.-Soz. Michael Tröger**

IT

Michael Tröger graduated from Heidelberg University in 2007 with a degree in sociology, majoring in industrial sociology. From 2001 to 2003, he was in charge of the IT administration at the Institute for Anthropology of Heidelberg University. After completing an internship in Lisbon in 2003, he started his own IT business. He is currently an IT service provider at the HCA.



**Stella Wancke**

Technical Support

Stella Wancke is a student of the first BAS class. Since October 2011, she is one of the photographers of the HCA and responsible for event engineering.

**Rebecca Zimmermann**

TA Political Science/Conference Organization

Rebecca Zimmermann studied political science, American literature and classics at Heidelberg University and graduated in the summer of 2011. She joined the HCA in September 2010 as a tutor for the BAS, supporting Martin Thunert's seminar on American politics. She also assisted in organizing the ERP conference "Energy Policy and Energy Security – Transatlantic Perspectives."

**Associated Fellows****Millie Baker, M.A.**

Presentation and Media Skills

**Prof. Elizabeth Borgwardt**

Professor of History, Washington University St. Louis

**Dr. Jana Freihöfer**

Heidelberg University Rectorate, Communication and Marketing

**Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert**

Professor of History, University of Augsburg

**Dr. Thomas Gijswijt**

Research Fellow, Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen

**Prof. Jeannette Jones, PhD**

Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Dr. Alexander Vazansky**

Professor of History, University of Nebraska-Lincoln

**Jun.-Prof. Dr. Simon Wendt**

Professor of History, University of Frankfurt

## Adjuncts

### **Kimberly Chadwick**

BAS "Language Practice"

### **Nadine Grzeszick**

MAS tutorial "American Jewish Culture"

### **Julia Lichtenstein**

BAS "Methodology"

### **Ana Maric**

BAS "Key Competences"

### **Julia Roseveare**

BAS "Presentation Skills"

### **Christoph Stawenow**

MAS tutorial "One Hundred Years of American Fundamentalism"

### **Stefanie Weymann**

BAS tutorial "American Literature"

### **Cynthia Wilke**

MAS tutorial "Law"

## HCA Interns

In 2010-11, the HCA successfully continued its internship program, which began in the fall of 2005. We were very fortunate to host excellent interns during the year, who provided valuable support for our work. We would like to thank:

Charlotte Koyro (Heidelberg University), who spent three months at the HCA. She assisted the public relations department in the organization of several book launches and lectures of the Baden-Württemberg-Seminar. She also supported the HCA in organizing events which were part of the jubilee year, such as the "Amerikatag" in June 2011.

Laura Schelenz (Heidelberg University) supported the Spring Academy team in the organization of the eighth Spring Academy, during the spring break in 2011. In addition, she assisted the MAS team in organizing this year's commencement ceremony in April 2011.

Heather Ceana Schmidt worked as a technical editor at the HCA from January until April 2011. She assisted the B.A. and M.A. team in editing publications for the B.A. and M.A. program.

If you are interested in applying for an HCA internship or in further information please contact Anne Lübbers at [aluebbers@hca.uni-heidelberg.de](mailto:aluebbers@hca.uni-heidelberg.de).

## Cooperation and Support

The HCA gratefully acknowledges the support of the following institutions in facilitating its programs:

The American Academy Berlin; the Archiv Grünes Gedächtnis, Berlin; the Tübinger Bücherfest; the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies (FRIAS); the Freiburg Theater; the Department of History, University of Augsburg; the Forum für internationale Sicherheit (FiS), Heidelberg; the Fritz Thyssen Foundation; the German Program for Transatlantic Encounters of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, administered by the KfW Bankengruppe; the Institut für England- und Amerikastudien, Goethe Universität, Frankfurt a.M.; the Marie-Curie-Actions for the Promotion of Scientific Excellence of the European Commission; the European Union Center of Excellence (EUCE) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; the Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, Krakow; the School of Arts and Sciences, College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, Va.; the School of Arts and Sciences at the University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia; the Machiavelli Center for Cold War Studies, Italy; the Department of English Language and Culture, Radboud University Nijmegen, The Netherlands; the Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg, The Netherlands; the Department of History, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, N.Y.; the German American Institute Heidelberg; the Carl-Schurz-Haus Freiburg; the German American Institute Tübingen (dai); the German-American Lawyers Association (DAJV); the Hamburger Institut für Sozialforschung (HIS); the International Center for the Science of Culture and Technology (IZKT), University of Stuttgart; the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart; the John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies at the Free University Berlin; the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach;

the Marsilius Kolleg, Heidelberg University; the Zentrum für Europäische Geschichts- und Kulturwissenschaften (ZEGK), Heidelberg University; the Heidelberg University Association and its executive director Irmintraud Jost; Heidelberg Alumni International and its director Silke Rodenberg; the American-European Friendship Club, Heidelberg; the American German Business Club, Heidelberg; the Democrats Abroad Germany; the Republicans Abroad Germany; the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD); the German-American Fulbright Commission; the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; the Government of the State of Baden-Württemberg; the Humboldt Foundation; the Office of the Historian, U.S. House of Representatives; and especially the United States Embassy in Berlin and the United States Consulate General in Frankfurt/Main.

Additionally, the HCA would like to thank the following institutions of Heidelberg University for their support:

The Rector and the Rectors's Office; the Zentrale Universitätsverwaltung (ZUV); the International Office; the Press Office; the Office of the Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy; The Computing Center (URZ); the University Guest Houses; the Studentenwerk Heidelberg; the Abteilung Schlüsselkompetenzen in Studium und Lehre; and the University Library.

Furthermore, special thanks go out to the administrative staff of the Schurman Foundation and the FHCA (Lucy Whitehead and Silke Ruh-Simon), to the office of the Engelhorn family (Gunda Baumgartner), to attorney at law Klaus-Dieter Freund, to Klaus Kettner for his advice on accounting, and to architect Horst Müller.







# An Institute for Higher Education

As an institute for higher education, the HCA trains American Studies specialists in response to an increasing demand in academia, the public sector, and the business community. The HCA provides interdisciplinary academic and cultural teaching on the United States for students from around the world.

Having offered a Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) program (see page 47) from its inception and a three year Ph.D. in American Studies program (see pages 80) starting in 2006, the HCA completed its educational portfolio by adding a B.A. in American Studies (BAS) in October 2010. This year we welcomed our second class to the BAS program (see pages 46).

## The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies (BAS)

The Bachelor of Arts in American Studies at Heidelberg University is unique in its broad range of subjects. The program is offered by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) in cooperation with the English Department, the Department of Geography, the History Department, the Institute for Political Science (IPW), the Law Faculty, and the Faculty of Theology, including its Research Center for International and Interdisciplinary Theology (FIIT). The option to concentrate in geography or theological and religious studies, as well as to obtain an additional jurisprudential certificate, makes this program unique in Germany and Europe and beyond.

The American Studies Program is a one of a kind multi- and interdisciplinary program designed to understand a complex subject matter: the United States of America. Students receive a thorough education in literature, cultural studies, history, political science, theology, and geography, and have the additional opportunity to acquire professional knowledge in U.S. constitutional and procedural law.

The B.A. in American Studies admits a small group of highly motivated students, up to 25 freshmen annually. It places a strong emphasis on intense one-to-one support and mentoring as well as on student responsibility within a research-oriented teaching program.

The BAS is a full-time program lasting six semesters. Students are admitted once a year at the beginning of the winter semester. Applications are accepted by Heidelberg University until July 15 of the respective year.

The program wants to attract German as well as international applicants holding a General Qualification for University Entrance ("Allgemeine Hochschulreife" or equivalent) with a special interest in the history, politics, society, and culture of North America.

## BAS Outline

The six-semester Bachelor in American Studies program at Heidelberg University offers students to choose their individual focus, allowing them to specialize in the areas they are most interested in. The course of studies comprises both subject-specific and practical parts.

The **subject-specific parts** of the program (fachwissenschaftlicher Teil) consist of an introductory module, four basic modules, two specialization modules, one interdisciplinary module, and the optional add-on law module:

**Introductory Module:** This module imparts basic knowledge of the disciplines history, literature and culture, political science, geography, and theological studies. The students are given an overview of specific perspectives on the respective subject and its fundamental terms, theories and methods. Additionally, students learn about the theories and methods of the integrative discipline American Studies.

**Basic Modules:** These modules enable students to gain expertise in specific subject areas of the program. Students need to select four out of the five disciplines offered.

**Specialization Modules:** During the second half of the program, students choose two specialization modules that allow them to concentrate more closely on two of the four fields they had previously selected as basic modules.

**Interdisciplinary Module:** Once students have attained a strong grounding in at least two of the disciplines offered, they enrol in an interdisciplinary module designed to promote interdisciplinary work and illustrate its synergy effects. The interdisciplinary module can either consist of an interdisciplinary seminar and an interdisciplinary colloquium, or two courses on the same topic from different disciplines.

**Add-on Module in Law:** The optional add-on module in law offers a supplemental qualification in the realm of Anglo-American public law. It provides an overview of U.S. constitutional law and of procedural law as far as infringements of basic rights such as life, liberty, and property are concerned. This add-on module spans three semesters and students will receive a separate certificate upon completion.

The practical parts of the program (praktischer Teil) consist of the following modules:

**Language-in-Use Module:** The language-in-use module consists of a basic module and an advanced module. The basic module entails a language class, a class on academic writing, and a book club. Within the advanced module, students hone the skills they acquired in the earlier course by devoting time to more complex readings and perfecting their writing skills.

**Key Skills Module:** The key skills module also consists of a basic and an advanced module. It trains students in pivotal competencies such as time management, non-supervised learning, intercultural communication, and other soft skills. On both the basic and advanced levels it includes a debating club meant to improve rhetorics by discussing current issues in U.S. politics, culture, and society or in a particular academic field.

**Praxis Module:** The praxis module entails the preparation for as well as the realization and evaluation of an internship in an area relevant for American Studies. This internship should last for at least two months.

## BAS Class of 2014

This year, the program admitted 20 students from all over Germany. Most of them have already had some "American experience," be it a year abroad during high school or an extensive language class in the U.S. The new BAS students were welcomed at the HCA at the beginning of October with a two day orientation session and took up their course work afterwards.



The new students of the BAS Class of 2014 in the annex of the HCA (l. to r.): Stefan Wasmer, Karolina Hujic, Vanessa Marschang, Maria Rentmeister, Laura Schoppe, Sandra König, Franziska Frey, Enmanuel Hidalgo Enfante, Miriam Siebeking, Katja Lenz, Miriam Oser, Xenia Glassen, Christina Luther, Bianca Seitz, Johanna Müller, Sofia Blum. (not pictured: Julian Selinger, Annika Geißler, Megan Benoit, Kathrin Hollender)

## The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS)

The Master of Arts in American Studies (MAS) at the HCA is an exclusive interdisciplinary program taught in English. It is aimed at qualified graduate students from around the world. American Studies in the MAS is defined by exemplary and interdisciplinary teaching of cultural knowledge about the United States of America. The program provides training in academic and practical skills tailored to meet the needs of future leaders in a transatlantic and global environment. The MAS is a three semester program. A performance-related fast track option (two semesters) is available.

The HCA admits up to 30 students to the MAS annually. To date, six graduating classes totaling 101 students have earned the master's degree. These 101 students came from 33 countries on five continents. Admission is competitive and depends on the quality and academic merits of the candidates. Most candidates will have studied law, humanities, or social sciences at the undergraduate or graduate level.

The MAS begins in October of each year and is directed towards students who have already completed a four-year undergraduate studies program. The tuition fees for the MAS program are 2,500 EUR per semester. Curricula include a selection of courses from economics, geography, history, law, literature, musicology, philosophy, political science, religious studies, and sociology. The MAS curriculum is limited to a selection of disciplines and topics to give the participating students both a sound scholarly grounding and opportunities for the professional application of what they have learned.

The winter semester (October to early February) began with a one-week introduction followed by a weekly curriculum of five lectures with their accompanying tutorials, one interdisciplinary colloquium, and two additional methodology courses. The summer semester, which started in April, consisted of two lectures, two tutorials, two interdisciplinary seminars, one presentation skills course and the continuation of the methodology courses and the interdisciplinary colloquium. The Berlin excursion took place in June. Over the two semesters, students had to choose three majors with mandatory attendance in the tutorials, oral exams and term papers to write. In their chosen minors students also had to take oral exams.

The third and final semester is reserved for writing the M.A. thesis that has to be handed in by January 31, 2012. On October 20-21, 2011, the M.A. thesis workshop took place where students presented their thesis outlines. The graduation ceremony will take place on April 13, 2012.

Below you will find information on the MAS program of 2010-11, including course outlines of the classes offered, an outlook onto the academic year 2011-12 as well as short biographies of the classes of 2011 and 2012.

For more information please visit the MAS website at [www.mas.uni-hd.de](http://www.mas.uni-hd.de).

## MAS Course Outline

### Winter Semester 2010-11

During the winter semester 2010-11, five lectures were offered as well as two methodology classes and an interdisciplinary colloquium.

#### History

"The History of the United States from Independence to Secession, 1760-1860"

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg

Teaching Assistant: Johannes Steffens, M.A.

When the colonial subjects of British North America declared their independence from the mother country, they set out, in Thomas Paine's famous words, "to begin the world over again." The United States of America constituted itself as a new nation state based upon the principles of political liberty and republican government. Yet despite their professed belief in natural rights and equality, Americans continued to practice racial slavery. Eventually, the sectional conflict over the "peculiar institution" led to the declaration of secession by the slaveholding states in South, threatening the break-up of the union created by the Constitution of 1787. The lecture course covered the political and social history of the United States from the eve of independence to the eve of the Civil War. It focused on such topics as the American Revolution, the consolidation of the American Republic, Jacksonian Democracy, antebellum slavery, reform and religion, industrialization, immigration and nativism, westward expansion, and sectional conflict.

The goal of the accompanying tutorial was to deepen the students' understanding of these major problems in U.S. history. In addition to reviewing topics introduced in the lecture, the tutorial comprised of 15 minute oral presentations, critical

readings of primary and secondary sources, and the discussion of methodological issues. The most important element of the tutorial were the lively class discussions during which students presented their own analyses of the subject material, grappled with historiographical controversies, and collectively resolved problems of understanding and interpretation.

Six students chose history as one of their majors and wrote term papers on a wide array of topics, including the origins of the women's rights movement, religious persecution in antebellum America, and a Hegelian analysis of Nat Turner. Seven students selected history as a minor.

#### Sociology

"Modern Classics of (North) American Social, Political and Economic Thought"

Lecturer: PD Dr. Martin Thunert

Teaching Assistant: Tobias Endler, M.A.

The aim of this combined lecture and reading course was to introduce students to some of the giants of nineteenth, twentieth, and early twenty-first century North American social, economic, and political thought. Many authors and books covered in this class are acknowledged as modern classics. Some have fundamentally revised how people in North America and beyond think of social life, family and work, race and gender relations, education, mass communication, modern economics and business, political institutions and justice, human rights, and power as well as international relations. Authors covered in this course and included in a three volume reader with excerpts of key primary texts were read and reviewed by all participants in class. Featured authors included early modern

men and women of thought and action like Thomas Jefferson, Andrew Jackson, Alexander Hamilton and James Madison, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, Andrew Carnegie, William Jennings Bryan, James Baird Weaver, Jane Addams, Emma Goldman, and Theodore Roosevelt. The second group of authors encompassed early sociologists, anthropologists, legal thinkers, activists and members of the Progressive movement and the New Deal and its critics, such as Thorstein Veblen, William Graham Sumner, William James, W.E.B. Du Bois, Marcus Garvey, Woodrow Wilson, George Herbert Mead, John Dewey, Walter Lippmann, and Herbert Hoover. Post-World War II and contemporary thinkers included Marshall McLuhan, David Riesman, Milton Friedman, Daniel Bell, William F. Buckley, Louis Hartz, Martin Luther King, C. Wright Mills, Allan Bloom, Barry Goldwater, Robert Bellah, John Rawls, Robert Nozick, Michael Walzer, Richard Rorty, Gertrude Himmelfarb, Irving Kristol, Herbert Marcuse, bell hooks, NOW, Paul Krugman, Samuel Huntington, Francis Fukuyama, Peter Drucker, Theda Skocpol, Richard Florida, Amy Gutman, Cornel West, Malcolm X, Stokeley Carmichael, Michael Hardt, Max Boot, Fareed Zakaria, and Anne-Marie Slaughter.

While the lecture put individual authors into a historical and intellectual context (e.g. Progressivism, Pragmatism, Libertarianism, Liberalism, (Neo)Conservatism, (Neo)Marxism and Radicalism, Keynesianism, Monetarism, or Communitarianism), the tutorial focused on an in-depth reading and discussion of two keystone texts or authors for each session. The tutorial also prepared students for their oral examinations and offered support with the preparation of term papers. A dozen students wrote term papers for this class.

## Religious Studies

“One Hundred Years of American Fundamentalism”

Lecturer: Prof. Dr. Erich Geldbach

Teaching Assistant: Christoph Stawenow, M.A.

The seminar gave an overview of American religious fundamentalism. It began with some preliminary definitions of what fundamentalism could mean and then started with what nineteenth century “prophecy conferences” presented as premillennial dispensationalism. The debate over “inerrancy” of the Bible versus “higher criticism” and Darwinian evolutionism was followed by a look at the publications of the booklets “The Fundamentals – A Testimony to the Truth.” The importance of World War I, particularly the Capture of Jerusalem by British and Anzac forces under General Allenby, the Balfour Declaration, and Blackstone’s Memorial was discussed to show how a fundamentalist view of history as “holy history” finds re-assurance in historic events. The Scopes Trial and the roles of William Jennings Bryan and H.L. Mencken served as indicators that the public perception of fundamentalism changed dramatically. This was further demonstrated by looking at Harry E. Fosdick and his counterpart, James Martin Gray of the Moody Bible Institute, as well as at Sinclair Lewis’ novel *Elmer Gantry*. Carl McIntire and his national and international rival organizations of the ecumenical movement also showed a fundamentalist deterioration into a “separationist” corner of American society. The rise of the National Association of Evangelicals (NAE), the founding of Fuller Seminary and other events indicated that conservative Protestantism in the U.S. is deeply divided. The Religious Right as represented by such figures as Jerry Falwell and his Moral Majority, James Dobson and his Focus on the Family, TV preachers, Hal Lindsey, Tim LaHaye, Phyllis Schlafly and others as well as a host of think tanks helped explain the “culture war” and “family

values” rhetoric and its influences on the elections of Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush. The class also highlighted and discussed the commitment of these fundamentalists to the well-being of the state of Israel as well as other foreign policy issues. The tutorial conducted further analysis of fundamentalist texts and theories.

## **Political Science**

“Making Public Policy in the United States”

Lecturer: Patrick S. Roberts

“Making Public Policy in the United States” was a tour through the fragmented, sometimes complicated process of developing and enacting policy. The tour guide was Prof. Patrick Roberts, the Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence for 2010-11 and also an assistant professor in public administration and policy at Virginia Tech University in Alexandria, Virginia. The tourists, as it were, came from several countries, and all took a keen interest in the landscape of the United States. Some had studied political science as undergraduates in the United States, while others had backgrounds in literature, sociology, media studies, and history. The novice public policy analysts asked some of the deepest questions, not yet having been oversocialized enough to take for granted the most surprising features of the American system, such as the high degree of independence accorded the states.

The course began by considering broad trends in American government. Americans are more suspicious of government power and more trusting of markets than citizens of many other industrialized countries. The United States never had a strong socialist movement or a workers’ party. Its welfare state is weak. Although all true, these broad statements reveal little about the complexities of the American system of

government, or about whether the United States is in some sense exceptional or merely unusual.

This course provided a window on big questions about American life and government through an introduction to the traditions, assumptions, and diverse perspectives on the public policy process. We covered much of the material found in a standard American government course, but through the lens of public policy studies.

Much of the course focused on readings and discussions of theories, concepts, and models of public policy making. Students examined historical context of policy making, both as an arena of practice and as a field of inquiry; the political, partisan, ideological, and institutional context of the policy process; the roles of official and unofficial policy actors; agenda-setting, the roles of power and interest groups in policy making; policy tools; policy implementation, policy failure and ideas for improving the policy process. This class, like the policy process literature, was primarily concerned with the contemporary United States federal government, but students brought their own experience and reading to bear on the course. What began as a standard American government course ended up as a comparative government course, with the American experience drawn in sharp relief through comparison with the countries from which students hailed.

The tutorial extended the discussions from the lecture, and it provided a forum to hone students’ papers. Students wrote a number of successful papers, and they shared these with classmates during tutorial presentations. One student wrote a paper on the influence of local electoral politics on decisions to contract for United States military technology development and purchases. Another



student wrote on the controversy surrounding California's legalization of medical marijuana, which is in violation of federal law. Yet another student wrote on the domestic determinants of United States policy toward Palestine. Finally, another student asked what factors shaped the behavior of the United States ambassador in Albania, and whether the ambassador had gone rogue or simply reflected changing American government policies. Many of these excellent papers will be starting points for student theses, and for vibrant careers for students who gained a nuanced and in depth understanding of the United States.

## Literature

"Visions of America: The Nineteenth Century"

Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

Teaching Assistant: Maria Diaconu, M.A.

America has never been just a geographical place; rather, it has also always been a focal point of visions and dreams. This is the second part of a three-semester lecture course examining the changing conceptions of America from the seventeenth century to the present. Based on close readings of selected literary and expository texts, the lectures will try to assess the social, political, and cultural roles of the various idealistic conceptions of America and the United States. Critics have given different reasons for the persistence of these idealisms: Some consider them ideologies (in the Marxist sense) masking self-interested economic practices. Others perceive them as instruments of modern nationalism: as these visions draw their readers into an imaginary identification with the nation state, they perform "cultural work." Still others view these idealistic visions as the outgrowth of a deep human need. The first part of this lecture course had studied texts from the Colonial and Early National Periods.

The second series of lectures covered texts from the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among the works analyzed were James Fenimore Cooper's *The Pioneers* (1823), Ralph Waldo Emerson's "The American Scholar" (1837) and "Self-Reliance" (1841), Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* (1850), Frederick Douglass's *Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, an American Slave* (1845), Harriet Beecher Stowe's *Uncle Tom's Cabin* (1861/62), William Dean Howells's *The Rise of Silas Lapham* (1885) and F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* (1925). The class discussed the following topics: "Republic and Frontier," "Visions of Spiritual and Material America," "Separate Spheres: Women's Visions," "A House Divided: Slavery and the Promise of America," "The Power of Blackness: The Artist's Vision," "Visions of 'Realists': Capitalism's American Dream."

The literature tutorial supported the lecture, providing relevant additional information and at the same time allowing the students to interact with the texts through active participation in class discussions, as well as other practical activities. The sessions consisted of student presentations followed by a close-reading, like discussion of the literary texts and of selected additional secondary materials. Deepening the knowledge of literary studies terminology in general and of literary genres in particular was another important component of the tutorial. Through secondary texts by critics such as Sacvan Bercovitch, Jane Tompkins, and Winfried Fluck, the class engaged in discussions on the characteristics of literary genres like the historical novel, the romance, the sentimental novel, or the slave narrative. In addition to individual presentations, the students were also required to complete several written online assignments.

## Methodology I

“Introduction to American Studies, Part I and II”  
Lecturer: Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

The two-semester methodology class provided students with an intense learning experience. The course met once a week and students were required to read two to three essays in preparation for each class session. Methodology differed from other classes offered in the program in that it was not concerned with any particular aspect of American culture, such as history, religion, or law. Instead, the course looked at American Studies as a discipline. The class addressed questions such as: What issues and questions inform the development of and the current debates in this field? What are the methods and skills students can employ in their own work?

During the course of the semester students read and analyzed not only articles on the origin, history, theory, and methods of American Studies, but texts and assignments were also coordinated with the class on academic writing taught by Dr. Anja Schüler.

The field of American Studies is conceived as an interdisciplinary effort that combines disciplines such as history, literature, political science, and sociology to analyze and describe American culture. Students read texts such as Henry Nash Smith’s “Can American Studies Develop a Method?” and Gene Wise’s “Paradigm Dramas in American Studies: A Cultural and Institutional History of the Movement,” wherein foundational scholars debated theories and methods underlying the discipline. These debates became more pluralistic and complex when racial, ethnic, gender, and other minority studies were developed, challenging previous assumptions about a coherent and unified American culture and adding new perspectives and approaches to the field. For example, we read

the following texts, among others: Mary Helen Washington, “Disturbing the Peace: What Happens to American Studies If You Put African American Studies at the Center?”; Nina Baym “Melodramas of Beset Manhood: How Theories of American Fiction Exclude Women Authors”; and George Lipsitz, “The Possessive Investment in Whiteness: Racialized Social Democracy and the ‘White’ Problem in American Studies” and “Listening to Learn and Learning to Listen: Popular Culture, Cultural Theory, and American Studies.” Collections such as Donald E. Pease’s and Robyn Wiegman’s *The Futures of American Studies*, written over half a century after the beginnings of the field, reflect the fact that viewpoints on theory and methods in American Studies have become ever more diverse. Globalization and the importance of United States culture for this process have forced scholars to acknowledge the importance of an international perspective on the field. Articles such as Lisa Lowe, “The International within the National” call for inter- or transnationalizing American Studies, one of the more recent trends in American Studies scholarship. Texts exploring queer studies and with an ecocritical perspective addressed contemporary critical concerns. After a good deal of hard work, participants had a solid perspective on both past and contemporary trends in American Studies scholarship and methodology.

## Methodology II

“Problems in Academic Writing, Part I and II”  
Lecturer: Dr. Anja Schüler

This two semester course offered concrete guidelines and practical advice for writing academic texts in English. In particular, it employed the “process approach” to academic writing, including narrowing down a topic, researching, planning, drafting, editing, and proofreading a paper. The class also discussed issues of writing in good style

and selected grammar problems. Students applied their newly gained knowledge in short papers on topics from the Methodology I class, which were jointly given and graded by the instructors of both classes. In the summer semester, students deepened their knowledge of particular writing techniques and applied them to practical matter such as the grant writing process. After this, they were ready to tackle their MAS thesis.

## **MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium**

Facilitator: Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

The winter semester of the MAS Colloquium commenced on October 4 with a talk by Victoria De Grazia, the Moore Collegiate Professor at Columbia University. Prof. De Grazia, whose most recent book, *Irresistable Empire*, came out in a German translation in 2010, is well known for her analysis of the triumph of American consumer culture over Europe's bourgeois civilization. In the MAS Colloquium, she introduced her latest project, a history of the term "soft power." Among other things, she posed the question when the United States use "soft power," what work it was intended to do and what this concept said about a new moment in American hegemony. She emphasized that the concept by no means became superfluous after the end of the Cold War, pointing towards the 2008 presidential election campaign in 2008 as a prominent recent example. The next session saw a presentation by David Woolner, professor of history at Marist College and Resident Historian at the Roosevelt Institute in Hyde Park, New York. Comparing the legislative initiatives of Barack Obama and Franklin D. Roosevelt, Prof. Woolner in particular pointed to the history of the Works Progress Administration. He argued that the infrastructure built by the WPA and other New Deal agencies helped lay the basis for the massive economic expansion that took place during World

War II and the post-war years and benefitted the U.S. for years to come. FDR simultaneously rebuilt America and the American workforce, but after roughly 70 years, much of this infrastructure is in desperate need of replacement or repair. Undoubtedly, today's crisis needs a similarly bold vision, maybe even "A New Deal for the 21st Century."

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium continued the following week with a talk by Daniel Stein from the University of Göttingen, the 2010 recipient of the Rolf Kentner Dissertation Prize. Excerpting from his prize-winning dissertation, Daniel Stein presented some of the key arguments of his work which looks at the life and art of Louis Armstrong in the context of American autobiography writing. His talk entitled "'My Life Has Always been an Open Book': Louis Armstrong, American Autobiographer" among other things addressed a phenomenon that has long engaged cultural critics: The fact that cultural expressions in different media frequently impact each other. Daniel Stein argued that we cannot gain a full sense of Armstrong's music simply by asking how it is constructed but must also consider how it intersects with stage acting or Armstrong's autobiographical interviews. Issues of American Media Studies were also addressed in the following session, when Robert Norrell, who holds the Bernadotte Chair of Excellence at the University of Tennessee, talked about "The Media and the Movement: How Racial Images Thwarted and Enabled Race Reform in the U.S." Prof. Norrell analyzed the representation of African Americans in the American mass media between 1890 and 1958, tracing the history of black protest since emancipation and linking the intensifying protest in the 1950s and 60s to changes in media portrayal. This included comic strips, advertisement and the minstrel show as well as racist humor in weekly magazines like *Collier's* and the *Saturday*

*Evening Post* or radio shows like *Amos'n'Andy*. With the beginning of World War II, the budding civil rights movement, and the emergence of black media, popular magazines significantly reduced racist images and began to treat blacks more sympathetically.

For the fourth week of the colloquium, the HCA welcomed Anne Hull, an award winning reporter from the *Washington Post*. Together with Dana Priest, she was awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service as well as the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award for her stories investigating the neglect of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. Anne Hull's writing often focuses on the marginalized in American society and explores the dilemmas of race, class and immigration. In her engaging talk "Confronting the Broken and Forgotten: The Essential Need for Journalism," she not only gave an insider's account of how the Walter Reed story broke, but also emphasized that the greatest privilege for reporters is to be given the funds, the legal back-up, and the time to follow stories closely and intensively. She also reported about the dilemmas journalists face in "being there" reporting, the kind of original reporting that allows them to work up curiosity and widen their scopes but also requires them to leave the comforts of home and city to report on the real America. Media Studies continued to be the focus of the colloquium a week later, albeit on a lighter note: Matthew Henry, Professor of English and Cultural Studies at Richland College in Dallas shared his insights about "The Simpsons and American Culture" with the MAS.

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium turned philosophical the following week with a lecture by Richard Wolin of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, provocatively titled

"Anti-Intellectualism in American Life: The Case of Richard Rorty." Considered one of America's most significant philosophers, Richard Rorty addressed central problems of modern philosophy and debated outstanding representatives of twentieth-century European literature. Nevertheless, Wolin contended, at a certain point Rorty became a rather peculiar philosophical presence: a philosopher who, to all intents and purposes, abandoned the philosophical vocation, whose goals and purposes had become, in essence, a dead letter to him. Not surprisingly, Wolin's argument elicited a lively discussion during the Q & A session. The colloquium returned to musicology with a talk on "Jazz Poetry" by Erik Redling from the University of Augsburg. Redling employed Langston Hughes "The Cat and the Saxophone (2 p.m.)," Paul Blackburn's "Listening to Sonny Rollins at the Five-Spot" (1964), Ira Sadoff's "Mood Indigo" (1931), and other examples to argue that rendering Jazz into writing was not a mimetic but a metaphoric exercise, which allows the reader to create meaning by paying attention to all kinds of para-textual features. As a consequence, then, the reader becomes creative himself. The next session of the MAS Colloquium featured a bestselling author: Darrell Bock, Research Professor of New Testament Studies and Professor of Spiritual Development and Culture at Dallas Theological Seminary. In his lecture "The Da Vinci Code and History: Sorting Out the Claims of a Worldwide Best-Seller," Professor Bock looked at the basic claims of Dan Brown's blockbuster and alternative christianities, namely that a revision of early Christian origins is needed and that gnostic texts with their human Jesus and view of women can take us there. Professor Bock's profound analysis of the writings of Gnostic Christians, however, disputed this claim, not the least because they were too late and too distinct to be tied to the Jewish Jesus.

The January lectures of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium took the students back to the nineteenth century, starting with "Emersonian Friendship and Textual Recognition" by Johannes Völz of Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main. The following week, the HCA welcomed Paul Finkelmann, President William McKinley Distinguished Professor of Law and Public Policy and Senior Fellow at Albany Law School. In his talk "Fugitive Slaves and American Justice; the Failure of Law and Morality," Prof. Finkelmann looked at one of the most dramatic aspects of American Slavery: the escape, return, or rescue of a fugitive slave. The runaway slave was an appealing figure to antebellum Northerners, even to those who opposed abolition, yet they were legally bound by the Constitution and two federal Fugitive Slave Acts to return runaway slaves to those who claimed them. Prof. Finkelmann's talk pointed to the dilemmas this posed for Northerners in general and abolitionists in particular. A week later, the talk of Fabian Klose from the University of Munich took this debate to an international level: In "Enforcing Abolition: Humanitarian Intervention and International Justice in the Nineteenth Century," Klose looked at the creation of both a multinational fleet charged with inhibiting the transatlantic slave trade and of mixed commissions entrusted with adjudging violators. While the U.S. started to participate in the mixed commissions only in 1862, American ships had supported the multinational fleet already since 1842, resulting in the ironic situation that American skippers and sailors collected bounties for freeing slaves on the high seas, while U.S. marshals and sheriffs onshore collected bounties for the reenslavement of runaways. Like every winter semester, the Interdisciplinary Colloquium concluded with an introduction to the summer term's interdisciplinary seminars.

## Summer Semester 2011

Two lectures and two interdisciplinary seminars were offered during the summer semester. The methodology classes and the interdisciplinary colloquium continued from the winter term.

### American Jewish Culture

In cooperation with the Hochschule für Jüdische Studien

Lecturer: Dr. Jonathan Skolnik (University of Massachusetts-Amherst)

Teaching Assistant: Nadine Grzeszick

In the course of the last century, the United States became the main center of Jewish life outside of Israel. With a population of approximately 2 million Jews, the New York metropolitan area is the second largest Jewish area worldwide after Tel Aviv. The aim of this course was to introduce students to the rich cultural production of American Jews and its defining themes in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Apart from novels and short stories by major Jewish writers, the seminar also examined visual culture, including comics and films.

Based on a discussion of the 1927 classic *The Jazz Singer* and the recent documentary *The Tribe*, the first meetings were dedicated to reaching a definition of American Jewish culture. First of all, the class analysed the various implications of the term "Jewish," which may denote an ethnic, but also a religious affiliation. Furthermore, it identified immigration and assimilation as two of the main aspects Jewish American culture has dealt with since its very beginning. The course then examined the impact of the Holocaust on American Jewry. Attention was paid to the trauma of survivors trying to integrate into American society as well as the identity problems of their children and grandchildren, who are often

obsessed with reconstructing the narratives of their ancestors. The main sources included Art Spiegelman's graphic novel *Maus*, Cynthia Ozick's short story "The Shawl," and the film *The Pawnbroker*. Since the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel has been another major theme in American Jewish culture. Focusing on a short story by Jon Papernick and Sarah Glidden's graphic novel *How to Understand Israel in 60 Days or Less*, the course examined the strongly ambiguous feelings of North American Jews about Israel, which vary from strong emotional attachment to harsh criticism of the modern State of Israel. Finally, some essential issues of American Jewish culture at the beginning of the twenty-first century were addressed. Thus, Lara Vapnyar was discussed as an author representing the growing community of Russian Jews in America, and Michael Chabon's *The Yiddish Policeman's Union* was put into the context of nostalgia for the Eastern European roots of American Jewish culture.

While the seminar approached the themes from a historical and cultural perspective, the tutorial concentrated on a close analysis of selected texts and films. As the course was offered in cooperation with University of Jewish Studies (HfJS), Heidelberg, students had access to a broad selection of primary and secondary sources relevant to the topic.

## Law

In cooperation with the Faculty of Law

"Introduction to the Law and Legal System of the United States"

Lecturer: Cynthia Wilke, J.D.

The rule of law, the effect of a legal system on a nation's culture and everyday life, and the individual's perception of this system are of tremendous importance in understanding a

society. The goals of this course were to investigate the origins of the United States legal system, acquire basic knowledge about the concepts and practices fundamental to its operation and learn about current issues on the legal horizon. Students studied the beginnings and development of the common law in the United States and compared and contrasted the U.S. system with the civil law legal tradition. In addition, subjects covered during the semester included the U.S. Constitution, selected areas of substantive law, the role of case law and precedent in U.S. legal analysis, the structure and role of the federal and state court systems, legal education, and the practice of law. We also focused on the unique procedural aspects of the U.S. system, such as the jury and the adversary system of dispute resolution.

In the tutorial sessions, we took an in-depth look at various legal topics of interest to students of American Studies. These included: law in the Colonial Period; the political, historical and legal background and importance of the landmark Supreme Court case *Marbury v. Madison*; special Constitutional law topics such as the uniqueness of the ratification process in the late 18th century and the growth of federal power under the Interstate Commerce Clause; the selection processes of state judiciaries, which in many states include electing judges to the bench; a concentrated look at the history of the jury system and its importance in the trial process; and legal and social issues concerning capital punishment. Throughout the semester, we had ample opportunity to apply the knowledge acquired during the course to current events, legislation, court cases, and legal decisions.

## **Interdisciplinary Seminar I (Literature and Religious Studies)**

*"American Transcendentalism"*

Lecturers: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt, Prof. Dr. Jan Stievernann

This interdisciplinary MAS course explored the emergence and significance of American transcendentalism, the important intellectual movement in the antebellum period that deeply shaped nineteenth- and twentieth-century US culture and is associated mainly with Ralph Waldo Emerson and Henry David Thoreau. Designed as a survey, this course traced the development of the transcendentalist movement in nineteenth-century New England from its iconoclastic beginnings in the 1820s to the end of its first and most important phase in the 1860s. Combining a literary with a religious-studies approach, our focus was on the multiple connections and interdependencies between the theological and spiritual concerns of the transcendentalists on the one hand and their aesthetic concepts and practices on the other. The course included sessions on the movement's historical and intellectual background in European philosophy, romantic poetics and aesthetic theory, and the theology from the New England Great Awakening to the Unitarian movement in Boston. We covered the major religious controversies and religious reform movements that shaped the transcendentalist manifestoes and their participation in major life reform movements, programs of "natural living," writings on educational reform and, finally, their political positions with regard to slavery and feminism.

## **Interdisciplinary Seminar II (Law, Politics and Culture)**

*"9-11, the United States and the World at Ten. A Survey of American Legal, Political, and Cultural Responses to Terrorism a Decade after Al Qaida's 2001 Attacks"*

Lecturers: Dr. Steven Less, PD Dr. Martin Thunert  
The cultural studies segment was co-taught by doctoral candidates Maria Diaconu, Tobias Endler, and Philipp Löffler.

The major objective of this interdisciplinary seminar was to facilitate a critical assessment of whether, from a legal, political, and cultural perspective, the United States and the perception of the United States has significantly changed since September 11, 2001. After a short introductory phase providing the necessary background on terrorism, threat assessments, and the U.S. Constitution before 9-11, the first sessions dealt with the so-called 9-11 Report. Thereafter, anti-terrorism legislation, in particular the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001, as well as the role of the courts and the issue of habeas corpus was approached from a legal perspective; the class also analysed major Supreme Court cases related to these questions. From a legal perspective, two constitutional law questions took the centre of debate: Has increased political concern with national security resulted in the modification of the U.S. constitutional system's previous protections of individual liberty? Has the constitutional framework for the exercise of governmental authority been realigned, impacting on the essential principles of separation of powers and checks and balances? From a political science perspective the latter question is equally relevant. Thus, the next segment of the course focused on interpretations of the role of the executive branch after 9-11 as well as on post-9-11 executive power in action – especially on interrogating detainees and on other measures in the so-called "War on

Terror.” Shifting the focus to foreign policy, the course continued by examining the dilemma of war powers, looking at cases from the war in Vietnam, the first Gulf War, and more recent wars and interventions in Afghanistan, Iraq, and Libya. A special section of the course focused on cultural interpretations of 9-11, looking specifically at the role and reaction of U.S. public intellectuals, writers, and cultural theorists. From a cultural studies perspective, the class tried to find out whether September 11, 2001 represented a turning point for the work and perceptions of public intellectuals, novelists, and academics. This section was taught by doctoral students Maria Diaconu, Tobias Endler, and Philipp Löffler. Finally, the class discussed the impact of September 11, 2001 on U.S. foreign policy doctrine and on perceptions of the United States. This included different national security strategies of the Bush and Obama administrations, the relationship with close U.S. allies in the wake of 9-11 as well as survey data on the perception of the United States around the world and literature on Anti-Americanism.

Students were expected to introduce one or two sessions and to submit two shorter pieces of written work on the subject from two out of three perspectives – legal, political or cultural – of 5-8 pages each, one due during and one due after the semester.

## Methodology I

“Introduction to American Studies, Part II”

Lecturer: Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

See course description winter semester 2010-11

## Methodology II

“Problems in Academic Writing, Part II”

Lecturer: Dr. Anja Schüler

See course description winter semester 2010-11

## MAS Interdisciplinary Colloquium

Facilitator: Dr. Wilfried Mausbach

For the first MAS Colloquium of the summer semester, the HCA welcomed Laura Bieger, professor for American Culture at the John F. Kennedy Institute of the Free University Berlin. Her talk, entitled “‘... would it not enable me to reach my home by nightfall?’ Mobility and Belonging in Charles Brockden Brown’s *Edgar Huntly*” reflected on this early American novel which combines several revolutionary-era fiction subgenres with other types of late-Enlightenment scientific and medical knowledges. The colloquium then turned to more current issues. Todd Gitlin, professor of journalism and sociology and chair of the Ph. D. program in Communications at Columbia University, took the stage only one day later to talk about “The Press and the Romance of the Financial Bubble.” His lecture highlighted the inglorious role of the American press during the nationwide mortgage speculations which led to the still smoldering worldwide financial crisis. Instead of pointing out the risks of these insecure mortgages the press cheered for the financial sector and celebrated its CEOs as “masters of the universe.” The press became a “watchdog that didn’t bark” in the face of danger. Professor Gitlin also suggested it will probably fall to non-profit journalism and informal agencies like Wikileaks to undertake the task of investigating such complex topics in the future.

The third session of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium gave students an opportunity to help the HCA’s own Tobias Endler celebrate his new book *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S., and Themselves*. The author introduced his sizeable audience to the sources and methods of his dissertation, which became the basis for the book he presented. In



particular, Tobias Endler asked his interview partners to define their nation's role and position on the global stage: What is America's foreign policy in the post-9/11 world? What should it be? What led to the catastrophe of September 11? How to best prevent another one, and how to restore America's damaged reputation? What to expect of Obama? And are the United States still a superpower? On the other hand, he asked them to define their own role: What is a public intellectual? Is this still a relevant concept? Did their authority increase since the attacks of 9/11? What role do public intellectuals play in the democratic public debate? He then continued his lecture with excerpts of audio tapings of the interviews which made clear that intellectuals with different ideological backgrounds very much agreed that the U.S. should continue its leadership role on the global stage. The following week saw a regular guest at the MAS Colloquium, Edward Eberle, Professor of Law at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, who spoke on the "Free Exercise of Religion in Germany and the USA, arguing that the jurisdiction of the *Bundesverfassungsgericht* was much more protective of (entrenched) religion, whereas the U.S. Supreme Court's case law was showing more inconsistency but, at the same time, a greater concern for minorities.

The first May session turned to issues of American Geography. Alan Lessoff, a well known historian of the Progressive Era and of comparative urban history, came to the HCA to speak about "The Cultural Geography of the New Urban Southwest: The Case of Corpus Christi, Texas." His lecture took the students to a place often overlooked in the history of Progressivism, which mainly deals with the urban Northwest. Professor Lessoff's presentation reviewed ways in which Corpus Christi's basic structure and culture reflect general patterns of urban growth and life in the larger

region. He also discussed when and how the large regional forces that once served as a catalyst for the city's growth came to seem like limitations. The following week, students were introduced to a completely different but no less fascinating topic, race protest in the "subversive" special relationship between Great Britain and the United States. Drawing on new research, Stephen Tuck, lecturer in American history at Oxford, took his audience back to the moment late in 1964 when Malcolm X spoke at the Oxford University debating union. Carried live on the BBC, and publicized around the world, some rated it as Malcolm X's greatest speech. While the choice of this very conservative venue might seem strange, Professor Tuck emphasized that it was rather savvy. On this occasion, African Americans and newly immigrated black Britons forged connections, which shaped the course and outcome of the struggles for racial justice in both countries in powerful and often unexpected ways.

The remaining May sessions of the MAS Colloquium were dedicated to analyses of the ongoing global financial crisis. First, Adam Tooze, professor of history at Yale University, revisited the New Deal, which many Americans saw and see as inimical to the American Way of Life in a radicalizing political discourse. Historians of the New Deal and economists are fragmented along technical and political lines and the function of history itself has changed. Mapping this confusing field, Professor Tooze offered four positions that combine different politics and economic theories with different notions of the purpose of history. They range from a nostalgia about the years that followed the Depression over a critique from the left that the measures were insufficient to a vocal and popular critique from the right, which argues that the state intervention of the New Deal and the uncertainty it created amongst businessmen

actually caused the prolonged economic slump. For Professor Tooze, the most powerful position is the “skeptical optimism” adopted by mainstream policy intellectuals such as Ben Bernanke or Christina Romer, a position true to the legacy of American pragmatism. Professor Tooze’s enlightening presentation was followed the next week by a provocative lecture delivered by Robert Isaak, Professor of International Management at Pace University in New York and author of *Brave New World Economy: Global Finance Threatens Our Future*. Professor Isaak revealed the weak spots of what he considers a rather fragile financial security. Among other things, Professor Isaak pointed out that the American bailouts constitute a shift from the private to the public sector; yet their success can only be temporary or in other words a “Great Bluff.” This mainly has to do with the decline of small commercial banks, the small reserves of foreign exchange and gold the U.S. holds to back up its currency and the large amounts of money the country spends on the social sector without getting adequate returns for it. As a result of insecurity and uncertainty during the crisis, conservative politics gained popularity. According to Professor Isaak, the only way out of the worldwide financial crisis is to solve the conflict between the developed and overbanked industrial countries and the undeveloped and underbanked ones.

The Interdisciplinary Colloquium then turned from public to private spending in its next two sessions, which were dedicated to the history of consumption in America. First, Professor Kristin Hoganson from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, a well-known expert on transnational history and the cultures of U.S. imperialism, talked about “Buying Into Empire: U.S. Consumption and the World of Goods, 1865-1920.” She argued that the world of domestic consumption linked

the formal U.S. empire of state power to a more informal but not less powerful informal empire of U.S. commercial power. Economic expansion fueled the globalization of consumption, while the appetite of U.S. consumers in turn drove economic expansion, quadrupling, for example, the import rates of food between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the century. Consumers, producers, importers, retailers, advertisers, advice purveyors, and conspicuous style setters all played their part in this development. “Appropriate consumption” started to characterize the relatively cosmopolitan lifestyle of white, well-to-do, native-born Americans. The following week, the HCA welcomed another eminent scholar of American consumption history, Susan Strasser, the Richards Professor of American History at the University of Delaware. Her lecture “Woolworth to Wal-Mart: Mass Merchandising and the Changing American Culture of Consumption” traced the development of American marketing techniques and shopping customs from 19th century Main Street to the discount stores of today. It commenced with a look at the origins of mass marketing as the United States changed from an agricultural to an industrial society. New production methods and new techniques for national marketing emerged. Prof. Strasser then turned to analyze changes in retailing brought about by those new marketing methods. Mass merchandising brought forth three genuinely new retail forms: the department store, the mail-order store and the chain store. In 1916, the first Piggly Wiggly Store in Memphis, Tennessee, introduced self-service. By the 1930s, many characteristics of the American shopping landscape were in place: To serve a population accustomed to brand names, increasingly equipped with automobiles and looking for bargain prices, enormous supermarkets were erected on cheap land outside urban areas – the prerequisites for today’s box stores were in place.

The last two sessions of the Interdisciplinary Colloquium returned to current issues once more. On July 14, in his lecture "After Torture: Responsibility, Constraint, and the American Political Constitution," Thomas P. Crocker from the University of South Carolina School of Law, provided an overview of U.S. violations of international and domestic laws against torture and asked what made those actions possible and how they were justified. Crocker looked at memoranda from the Department of Justice and at the so-called "One Percent Doctrine" formulated by Vice President Richard Cheney, concluding that notions of presidential unilateralism and American exceptionalism were key institutional prerequisites for what happened. He then explained the basic legal framework for accountability under the American system, pointing out the ambiguity of American constitutionalism between necessity and constitutional constraint, and illustrating the latter with case analyses. For the final session of the summer colloquium, former Deutsche Bank Scholar-in-Residence at the HCA Jeannette Jones returned to Heidelberg to give a fascinating talk about a very current political phenomenon, that will probably stay with us through the 2012 elections: "A Mad Tea Party: Race, Nativism and the Obama Presidency." Focusing on the emergence of the most powerful right-wing response to the Obama presidency, Jones argued that tea partiers aligned themselves with a movement questioning Obama's citizenship and "American-ness," as well as with neo-Confederates and anti-immigrant groups, and employed racist, nativist, and racialist discourses to discredit the first African-American president to occupy the White House. While the extent to which the Tea Party movement was tinged by racism triggered some contentious debate during the Q & A session, Jones convincingly demonstrated that tea partiers, by casting themselves essentially as heirs to the Founding Fathers, wittingly or

unwittingly simulate those who relegated African-Americans to the margins of society.

## **Presentation Skills**

Lecturer: Millie Baker

The course was a two day seminar which encouraged students to gain an insight into the subtleties of verbal and non-verbal communication to help get their message across. Students learned how to assess their own presentation strengths and weaknesses and tried out new communication strategies where appropriate. Furthermore, the course helped students to develop a critical awareness of their own and each other's presentation styles; to build on and practice the English phrases of academic presentation; to develop strategies for dealing with unexpected or difficult situations, e.g. answering questions, technical problems, or audience hostility; and to develop confidence and enjoyment in public speaking.

## **Outlook on the MAS Course Outline Winter Semester 2011-2012**

In the winter semester 2011-2012, the MAS schedule will include lectures in History on "Global Giant – Multicultural Society: The United States from the End of the Second World War to 9-11" by Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg; in Political Science on "Government and Politics of the United States" by PD Dr. Martin Thunert; in Religious Studies on "History of Christianity in America, 1800-1900" by Prof. Dr. Jan Stievermann; and in Musicology on "Old and New Dreams: The History of Afro-American Jazz" by Dr. Christian Broecking. In addition, two methodology classes are offered by Dr. Anja Schöler and Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, as well as an interdisciplinary colloquium which is guided by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach.



The MAS Class of 2011 (from l. to r.): Oksana Yeshyorkina, Yung-Han Chiang, Kimberly Chadwick, He Zhang, Elena-Laura Caprioara, Styles Sass, Elif Huntürk, Kishore Pinpati, Lidia Butacu, Cen Jiang, Redona Boriçi, Scott Werner, Ana Maric, Axel Phillip Kaiser Barents von Hohenhagen, Hasan Adwan

### **Hasan Adwan (Palestine)**

Hasan was born in Gaza City, in the Palestinian Territories, in 1985. He studied the International Baccalaureate in Norway at Red Cross Nordic United World College between 2002 and 2004. In 2005, he was awarded the Davis-UWC scholarship to study in the U.S. He received a Bachelor of Art from Westminster College with a double major in Political Science, with emphasis on Political Philosophy, and American History. During his time in Missouri, Hasan organized and participated in a number of political debates on U.S. foreign policy issues and was also a regular writer for Westminster's political magazine. He wrote a Bachelor thesis entitled "The Evolution of Basque Nationalism." After completing his Bachelor

studies, he moved to Germany, where he attended the HCA and earned a Master degree. Hasan joined the HCA's PhD. program in 2011 and his current research deals primarily with the impact U.S. Foreign Aid has had on Middle East politics; his dissertation working title is "U.S. Foreign Aid and the Decline of the Peace Party."

### **Redona Boriçi (Albania)**

Redona was born in Shkoder in 1988. She graduated with a B.A. degree in British and American Language and Culture. She has worked for several years as a volunteer as English teacher and translator. Coming to Germany was her first experience abroad.

### **Lidia Beatrice Butacu (Romania)**

Lidia was born in Bacau, Romania in 1987. She studied journalism in Bucharest and also worked at the Romanian Broadcasting Corporation as junior editor. Her HCA experience made her wanting for more academic research so she started a new master's program at a new founded university from Italy, Sophia University, in Fondamenti e prospettive di una cultura dell'unità (Fundaments and Perspectives of the Culture of Unity).

### **Elena-Laura Caprioara (Romania)**

Elena-Laura was born in 1982 in Romania. In 2006 she graduated from Al. I. Cuza University in Iasi, Romania, with a B.A. in Political Sciences. Afterwards, she had the opportunity to work in the field of Human Resources and pursue a Master of Science in Managerial Communication and Human Resources at the Faculty of Communication and Public Relations „David Ogilvy,” in Bucharest, Romania. The MAS program broadened her my horizons with majors in History, Literature and Film Studies. Her Master thesis focused on Sylvia Plath and the use of Holocaust as a metaphor for female suffering in her works: “Mirror, Mirror on the Wall: The Holocaust as a Metaphor for Female Suffering in Sylvia Plath’s Work.” After graduation, she became an associated member at the doctoral College “Life Writing” at Johannes Gutenberg University, Mainz.

### **Kimberly Chadwick (USA)**

Kimberly was born in Southern California in 1987 and lived in the immediate area of Los Angeles her entire life. In March 2009, Kimberly graduated from California State Polytechnic University, Pomona with a B.A. in Liberal Studies. While working on her M.A. at the HCA, she taught a

bachelor's course entitled “Language in Use.” Kimberly wrote her M.A. thesis on “American Civil Religion and the Pledge of Allegiance: An Analysis of Public Discourse 1954-2004.” Throughout her undergraduate and graduate careers, Kimberly has kept a high interest in American societal concerns.

### **Yung-Han Chiang (Taiwan (ROC))**

Yung-Han was born in Taipei in 1985 and has spent most of her life on this beautiful island, Taiwan. She has a B.A. in Diplomacy from National Chengchi University and also completed a M.A. degree in Development Studies at the same university. This MAS program in Heidelberg is her second master's degree.

### **James Ferrell (USA)**

James was born in Roanoke, Virginia in 1984. He lived in North Carolina and Florida for the majority of his life. He has a bachelor's degree in Political Science and Social Sciences from Florida State University. He also received a Masters in Applied American Politics and Policy in May 2009. He interned in Florida's 2009 regular legislative session with a lobbyist group representing Florida's Public Schools. After completing the MAS at the HCA he started his doctorate at the Anglistisches Seminar in Heidelberg. The working title is “Intellectuals and the State in the Early American Republic”.

### **Elif Huntürk (Turkey)**

Elif Huntürk was born in Izmir, Turkey and lived there until her university life started. She graduated from the Western Language and Literature Department at Bogaziçi University. After spending four years in Istanbul, she moved to Heidelberg to pursue an M.A. degree in American Studies. Her original idea was to focus on anti-americanism in

Turkey, yet she ended up doing research on Turkish adolescent girls and American teenage magazines. She completed her thesis ("Formation of Identity in Teenage Girls through Teenage Magazines: A Cross – Cultural Study between the U.S. and Turkey") under the supervision of PD Dr. Martin Thunert from the HCA and Robert Soultanian from Sociology department. Currently she is doing her Ph.D. at the American History Department at Bilkent University, Ankara, where her HCA classmate Oksana is her roommate and works as a teaching assistant in the Modern Turkish History Department.

### **Cen Jiang (P.R. China)**

Cen was born in Shanghai in 1987 and received her B.A. in English language and literature from the University of Fudan in 2009. She was an exchange student at Yale University in 2008 where she studied Maths and Art History. In her free time she is interested in fine arts, music, drama acting, travelling, reading and sports. After her graduation from the MAS, she is an intern at the headquarter of Bosch Rexroth AG. Thanks to the Internet, she still keeps in touch with her teachers, fellow classmates and dear friends of HCA. She would like to express her gratitude to this wonderful program for its international perspective, open and homelike atmosphere and last but not least, its profound and encouraging academic atmosphere. It was really a precious experience. She wishes the HCA all best for an even greater future!

### **Axel Phillip Kaiser Barents von Hohenhagen (Chile)**

Axel Kaiser was born in Santiago de Chile in 1981. He is a lawyer with a master's degree in International Law from the University of

Heidelberg. From 2007 to 2009 he worked as a business lawyer and as legislative adviser to a Chilean senator. In 2008, he became a columnist of the Cato Institute in Washington D.C., and in 2009 he became professor of Latin-American politics and political philosophy at two Universities in Chile. Since 2005 he is an columnist of the Chilean financial newspaper *Diario Financiero*. In 2011 he obtained the degree of Master of Arts in American Studies from the HCA as the class valedictorian; since October 2011 he is a student of the HCA's Ph.D. Program.

### **Ana Maric (Bosnia-Herzegovina / Germany)**

Ana Maric was born in 1985 in Bosnia and Herzegovina. After the civil war between the Balkans states broke out in 1992, her family decided to leave for Germany, where she spent the majority of her childhood. She pursued her B.A. in History and Political Science at the Eberhard Karls University in Tübingen. During her studies she discovered her growing interest for American culture and politics. In addition to her studies, Ana also worked as a tutor at the HCA.

### **Nanda Kishore Pinpati Sudhakar (India)**

Kishore was born in Bangalore, India. After graduating with an engineering degree in Computer Science from Bangalore University in 1994, Kishore went on to pursue his graduate studies in International Business at an American university in Germany. Kishore pioneered the concept of Offshore Software Development in Germany during 1996 with German Mortgage Banks, Insurance and Utilities and has worked as an entrepreneur in the IT industry for more than 14 years. He has also worked with members of the German Parliament on issues related to immigration policy.

## **Styles Sass (USA)**

Originally from North Dakota, Styles received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa. After teaching in the Basque country of northern Spain, he moved to Germany, where he was awarded several writing fellowships and published a collection of poetry and prose pieces titled, *More Than These Few Days*. In his master's thesis, "Words Apart: The Campaign Narratives of Barack Obama and John McCain in the 2008 Presidential Election," he investigated the intersection of literature and politics. He is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in American Studies at the HCA; Styles lives in Stuttgart where he works as a writer, editor, and teacher.

## **Thi Hai Ly Tran (Vietnam)**

Thi Hai Ly, born in 1984, graduated from the College of Foreign Languages at the Vietnam National University with a B.A. degree in English Language Teaching in 2006. Before she came to the HCA, she worked as a lecturer of English at the Vietnam University of Social Sciences and Humanities and taught at the Banking Academy of Vietnam.

## **Ana Cecilia Velázquez-Rodríguez (Mexico)**

Ana Cecilia Velázquez received a B.A. in Political Science and Government from the University of Guadalajara in 2007. She was awarded her master's degree by Heidelberg University in 2011. Her thesis was titled "The Debate about American National Identity: What does it mean to be an American?" Currently, she teaches U.S. History, Political Marketing and English at the Universidad del Valle de Mexico. She also is a research assistant and tutor at the department of International Affairs Studies at the University of Guadalajara.

## **Scott Werner (USA)**

Scott was born in 1981 in Mobile, Alabama and grew up in a small town in North Carolina. Scott completed his B.A. in German Language and Literature at Old Dominion University in Norfolk, Virginia in 2007. After finishing his eight year enlistment in the U.S. Army Reserve, he went to Germany to complete a six-month internship at the Goethe Institute Mannheim-Heidelberg. He then decided to stay and has been teaching English as a Foreign Language (EFL) as a freelancer since 2007.

## **Oksana Yeshyorkina (Turkmenistan)**

Oksana was born in 1986 in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan. She received her B.A. in American Studies and International Public Law from the American University Central Asia in 2009, where she specialized in the U.S. History and Politics, International Law, Human Rights and International Organizations. At the HCA she majored in American History, Foreign Policy and Film Studies and wrote her M.A. thesis on "The Influence of Personal Religious Convictions of Jimmy Carter and George W. Bush on the U.S. Foreign Policy: Israeli-Palestinian Conflict Case Study." After the MAS, Oksana worked as an assistant director at an international oil company in Turkmenistan. Currently she is pursuing her Ph.D. in American History at Bilkent University in Ankara.

## **He Zhang (P.R. China)**

He Zhang was born in Jiangxi/China in 1983, and studied at China Foreign Affairs University, where he finished his L.L.B. in Diplomacy in 2007. He received a B.A. in English in 2005. Before joining the MAS, he worked for the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympia and served as an interpreter for different



organizations like the Foreign Aid Department of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, Overseas Chinese Affairs Office of the State Council, Confucius Institute Headquarters, Beijing Chinese

Language and Culture College, and the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse. Among his interests are public speaking and broadcasting.

## MAS Commencement 2011



The Keynote Speaker of the MAS Commencement 2011, his Excellency Philip D. Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Germany

On April 8, the HCA welcomed families and friends of the MAS class of 2011 to celebrate their commencement in Heidelberg University's splendid Alte Aula. The MAS Class of 2011 was the sixth class to graduate from the Master of Arts in American Studies. Beautiful musical interludes by the Woodwind Quintet of the United States Army Europe Band contributed to the festive atmosphere.

Prof. Bernhard Eitel, Rector of Heidelberg University, gave a warm welcome to all guests and especially to the graduates. For him, this class was very special as it graduated during the 625th anniversary year of the Ruperto Carola. While in 1386 the new world was only a distant fantasy for Europeans, Heidelberg University now holds strong ties to the United States and has become a center of learning for a diverse and international student body. At the same time, many German students study in the United States. Therefore, the academic exchange between Heidelberg and the



USA continues to grow stronger, while Heidelberg University becomes increasingly global. Prof. Eitel emphasized the HCA's immense impact as a bridge builder in this excellent transatlantic relationship. He closed by inviting the graduates to stay in touch with their alma mater as alumni. Then, Prof. Manfred Berg, Dean of the Faculty of Philosophy, and Prof. Detlef Junker, Founding Director of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, had the pleasure and privilege to welcome both the graduates and their relatives, as well as this year's keynote speaker, his Excellency Philip D. Murphy, the United States ambassador to Germany.

In his key note speech "Winning the Future: Global Prosperity in the Twenty-First Century," his Excellency impressed the audience right away with his German, which he had acquired during a language course in Heidelberg in the 1970s. He then analyzed the challenges the United States, Germany, and the world have to face in the present and future, emphasizing development and innovation as key tools of diplomacy and effective partnerships. In economically challenging times, governments should focus on innovation and not neglect long term investments in education and infrastructure to keep pace with the rapidly changing world. According to Ambassador Murphy, Germany and the United States lead the world when it comes to innovation. They can set an example of how to enhance technological knowhow and create special environments that enable different minds to work together. Research centers, urban environments and the Internet can generate new networks of ideas. His Excellency encouraged the Class of 2011 to share their ideas for the future with him, for example on Facebook. Then he gave the graduates a very personal piece of advice: Always be honest with yourself and, moreover, be honest about what you like and do not like, what you are good at and what you

are not good at. To the surprise of the whole audience, the ambassador then left the podium and showed the students his personal example of what a table of these talents might look like. He also advised the graduates to balance their short and long term goals, systematic work and creativity, work and play. The ambassador said he hoped that the graduates would not forget about the older generation and find a way to combine their passions with their day job. He concluded by reminding the graduates to have fun wherever their professional lives might lead them.

Following the keynote speech, Prof. Junker presented the MAS Class of 2011, and Rector Eitel bestowed the degree of the Master of Arts in American Studies.

Axel Phillip Kaiser Barents von Hohenhausen from Chile graduated as the class valedictorian. He concluded the evening with a speech about the mysteries and unpredictability of life. According to him, many people have the arrogance to believe that they can predict the future. However, drawing on his own experiences at the HCA and quoting from Shakespeare and Sherlock Holmes, he showed that we can never fully comprehend the complexity of life and should therefore be amazed by what we have experienced. He thanked everyone who made his experience at the HCA possible: his classmates, everyone at the HCA, the HCA's founding father Prof. Detlef Junker, the HCA benefactors, and his father.

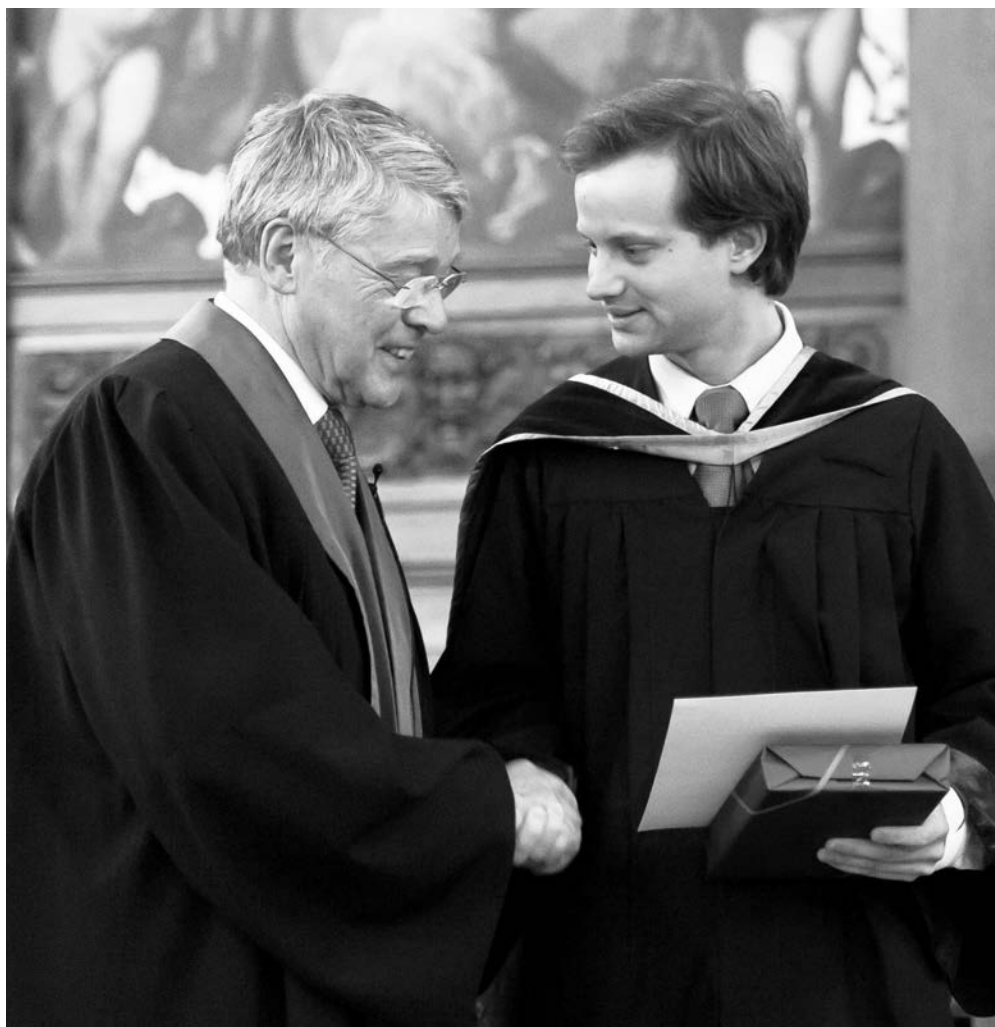
Following the commencement ceremony the Class of 2011, their teachers, family, and friends continued to celebrate the joyous occasion at a reception in the HCA's Atrium.

## Valedictorian Speech

Dear Friends,

I want to use this occasion to talk to you about mysteries. The idea came to my mind after realizing how unlikely it was for me, not too long ago, to end up giving a speech in the Alte Aula of one of the best universities in the world and certainly the best in Germany.

We live under the rationalist illusion that we can predict our future, and to some extent we certainly can. But to what extent? Think about this master's program for example. When we were accepted at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, we knew we were coming to Heidelberg, how long the program was going to last, what we were going to study, and so on. All of that was well laid out for us. But we could not predict anything about the people we were going to meet, the experiences we



Founding Director Prof. Detlef Junker congratulates the 2011 Valedictorian, Axel Kaiser

were going to share with them, or how they would enrich our lives. In other words, what mattered most remained a mystery to us all. And we still do not know how this experience in Heidelberg will change our lives forever.

As you can see, Shakespeare was right once again: there are definitely more things on earth and in heaven, than those our philosophy – our reason – is capable of dreaming of. And these things – these mysteries – are far more decisive in our lives than our plans or anything else. Why then do we humans have an arrogant tendency to take for granted things that were once a mystery? Why not accept Shakespeare's call to modesty and be amazed by what we have experienced so far? Let me bring in now the greatest mystery expert of all times, Mister Sherlock Holmes. This is what Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous character had to say to his old friend Watson on this particular matter:

*My dear fellow, life is infinitely stranger than anything which the mind of man could invent. We would not dare to conceive the things which are really mere common places of existence. If we would fly out of that window hand in hand, hover over this great city, gently remove the roofs, and peep in at the queer things which are going on, the strange coincidences, the plannings, the cross purposes, the wonderful chains of events, working through generations and leading to the most outré results, it would make all fiction with its conventionalities and foreseen conclusions most stale and unprofitable.*

Doyle, like Shakespeare, reminds us to be modest with the powers of our reason, for the complexity of our existence is something we will never be able to fully comprehend. All of which leads me to the conclusion that if we take Shakespeare and

Holmes seriously, and I believe we should, we cannot take anything for granted. On the contrary, we should give thanks to those who have made our experience possible. So I will give thanks for these amazing 18 months in Heidelberg. And I will start with my classmates, Scott, Styles, Ana Maric, Ana Velazquez, James, Cen, Shirley, Charlene, Harry, Hassan, Kishore, Kimberly, Laura, Lidia, Elif, Oksana, Redona. and Hay Ly. Of all mysteries, they were the most precious one. I also want to thank all the people who work at the HCA. Unfortunately, for time reasons, I cannot mention every one of them. I have to tell you however, that your students know that finding such an extraordinary group of people at the same time in the same place is a very rare thing. We are aware of how lucky we are. For this luck, I will give special thanks to the founding father of the HCA, Professor Detlef Junker. He is the reason why we are all here today.

I also want to thank Anne Lübbers and Iris Santoro. Without their support, we would have never made it through the program. And I wouldn't be here either if it wasn't for Dr. Hans Peter Wild, whose generosity made it possible for me and other classmates, who were fortunate enough to receive one of his scholarships, to study at the HCA. Finally, I want to use this once in a life time opportunity, and give thanks to my father, whose wisdom and unconditional support lies behind everything I have achieved so far.

Last but not least, I want to thank you all for your attention and I am certain that you will enjoy very much solving the delicious mystery that is waiting for us at the HCA.

Thank you,  
Axel Kaiser

### **Mahmoud Abdou (Palestine)**

Mahmoud was born in Gaza City, Palestine in 1986. He lived in Saudi Arabia for eight years, where his father worked for more than 20 years, and in 1995, following the signing of the Oslo agreement, his family moved back to Gaza. He graduated from Middlebury College, Vermont in 2009 with a B.A. degree in Political Science and a minor in Economics. He also studied Hebrew and Spanish there. Additionally, he spent the fall semester 2008 studying International Law at American University in Washington, D.C.

### **Bryan Banker (USA)**

Bryan has lived all over the United States, but New Jersey is his home. He received a B.A. in History in 2005, focusing on subjects ranging from revolutionaries to the American Labor movement and African-American history. After university, he settled in the Washington, D.C. area to focus on writing and to teach. He taught U.S. History, American Literature, and Film at the high school level in Virginia for a number of years.

### **Ivana Banovic (Croatia)**

Ivana was born in Split, Croatia. After she graduated from high school, she enrolled in the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb, Croatia where she graduated in English and Art history. Since then she has worked as a translator.

### **Ergün Baylan (Turkey)**

Ergün was born in Karabük in 1987. He is a graduate of Hacettepe University, Department of

American Culture and Literature. After graduation, he started to work as a research assistant for the Department of Western Languages and Literatures at Çanakkale Onsekiz Mart University. He published numerous essays in a departmental journal and also wrote articles for a nationwide youth periodical. In addition to participating in several academic conferences as a speaker, he has been engaged in several social projects and groups. His main interest areas cover philosophy, sociology, culture, and literary theories.

### **Evan Cacali (USA)**

Evan was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He lived in various Rocky Mountain states before graduating summa cum laude from the University of Montana. During university, he participated in a yearlong exchange at the University of Utrecht in The Netherlands, where he was first introduced to American Studies. For the past five years, he has been living in Japan and teaching English in public schools. He enjoys everything.

### **David Cagle (USA/Turkey)**

David was born in Augusta, Georgia in 1989. Because of his father's occupation in the U.S. military his family moved around a lot until finally settling permanently in his mother's homeland, Turkey. That is where he started his education. He recently graduated with a B.A. in American Studies from Ege University in Izmir. During his studies he volunteered, organized and participated in various symposiums on culture studies. He spent his second year at university studying in Germany at TU Dortmund via the Erasmus Exchange Program. He also minored in Teaching ESL and has taught

6th and 7th grade English for a semester at Yavuz Selim Primary School.

### **Doina Octavia Dumbravescu (Romania)**

Doina was born in Brasov, Romania in the summer of 1988. She graduated from Transilvania University of Brasov with a B.A. in American Cultural Studies. During the three years at the Department of American Studies, she teamed up with some class mates and founded the American Culture Club at Brasov, the first of its kind in Romania. She has also worked as an English teacher at Magister Educational Center in Brasov, with pupils ranging from 5-6 years of age to adults of over 30, a fact which gave her the best chance to develop my communication skills.

### **Aikaterini Katsouri (Greece)**

Aikaterini was born in Komotini, Greece in 1988. She obtained her B.A. in English Literature and Philology from the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2009. She also studied at Karl-Franzens University Graz, Austria, during her last semester of studies. After that, she worked as an English teacher in Schools of Foreign Languages and gave private lessons as well.

### **Nicholas Musto (USA)**

Nick was born in 1987 in Boston, Massachusetts and spent most of his life in the New England area. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, with a B.S. in History and a minor in Spanish. He enjoys many outdoor activities such as skiing and hiking. Nick is excited to be studying in Germany and hopes to gain new perspectives on the U.S. in the international community.

### **Tami Newton (USA)**

Born in the USA, Tami received her B.A. in Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She went on to travel extensively as an international fashion model before penning her debut novel, *Men: Custom-Made*, a hilarious read about dating issues, which was released to the German-speaking market in 2006 and as audio CD in 2008. Tami enjoys hanging out with friends, sunny days, and Häagen Dazs by the truckload. She also loves a good game of tennis, even if she's not exactly the Venus or Serena on court her alter ego tries to make her out to be.

### **Chester Prestes Pra Baldi Junior (Brazil)**

Chester Prestes was born in Porto Alegre, Rio Grande do Sul, in 1975 and moved to São Paulo in 1991. There he finished his high school and attended a B.Sc. program at the University of São Paulo (USP). For the past 8 years he worked at the Instituto Itaú Cultural, which promotes and researches Brazilian arts and culture. He focused on Brazilian music and also engaged in projects using arts as a mediation tool in conflict zones.

### **Nikola Radinovic (Serbia)**

Nikola was born in Belgrade, Serbia, in 1987. He was enrolled at the University of Belgrade, at the Faculty of Political Sciences, Department of International Studies. In 2008-09 Nikola was one of the first students from Serbia to be granted a scholarship funded by the E.U. and studied at the Institute for Political Science at Heidelberg University for a year. Through the course of his studies Nikola took part in U.N. simulations and various conferences on human rights, leadership, and diplomacy.

## **Edra Sulo (Albania)**

Edra was born in 1984 in Shkodra, Albania. She graduated in American and English Studies from the University of Shkodra “Luigj Gurakuqi.” She worked as a lecturer at this university, where she has also lectured on American Literature. In addition, she worked as a teacher of English in “28 Nentori,” one of the oldest secondary schools of Shkodra.

## **Michael Taylor (USA)**

Mike was born in Pleasant Grove, Utah in 1985. Before entering his university studies, he spent two years in Hamburg as a volunteer for a Christian outreach program, during which he developed a deep passion for the German people, language,

culture, and of course, food. He recently earned his B.A. in English and German Studies at Brigham Young University, where he was also employed as a German Instructor and Honors Writing Tutor. He enjoys researching, writing, and interacting with others.

## **Fiona Würthner (Germany)**

Fiona was born in 1985 near Düsseldorf, where she later received a bachelor's degree in History and Media Science. She went on to become part of the first class in the master's program of Public History at the Free University of Berlin. As a high school student Fiona spent a year in Indiana; she has worked in various countries throughout the world, including Ecuador, Canada, and Australia.

## **The MAS Class of 2013**

This year we welcome 15 new students from nine different countries: Ilgin Aktener (Turkey), Bahaa AlDahoudi (Palestine), Natalia Bayduraeva (Russia), Akua Bobson (Germany/Ghana), Stefanie Drews (Germany), John Andrew Elsik (USA), Rachel

Goss (USA), Naijun Liu (P.R. China), Anthony Rush (USA), Ferdinand Sacksofsky (Germany), Cody Smith (USA), Bryce Taylor (USA), Robin Tim Weis (Luxembourg), Oliwia Wolkowicz (Poland) and Yi Xiao (P.R. China).

## **MAS Social Activities**

The HCA tradition of the TGIF, “Thank God it's Friday,” continued during the past academic year. Instead of having food, drinks and conversation at the HCA only, the tradition was expanded to include field trips.

### **Halloween 2010: When Witches, Devils and Fallen Angels get together**

The first TGIF of the winter semester of 2010-11 took place at the end of October at the HCA. Witches, devils, fallen angels, and other monstrous

creatures left their dark hiding places to celebrate Halloween together. So that the monsters would feel right at home, the room was decorated with skeletons, spider webs, and scary looking pumpkins; the guests feasted on delicious dreadful looking dishes that made up the potluck buffet.

### **Thanksgiving**

In November the TGIF had to make way for a TGIT, the traditional Thanksgiving Dinner. On November 25, the Atrium of the Curt and Heidemarie



Founding Director Prof. Detlef Junker, the MAS Administrators and Some of the MAS Students, are Taking a Pause During the Bike Ride to Ladenburg

Engelhorn Palais was turned into a veritable dining hall. Two long rows of tables and two small rows were set up to seat over sixty students and staffers. The buffet featured not just delicious turkeys but also an assortment of mouth watering side dishes, contributions of the many guests attending. From homemade green beans, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, and corn bread to pumpkin cheesecake, pecan pie and apple crumble, the buffet displayed a plethora of traditional Thanksgiving side dishes. Prof. Junker commenced the feast by ceremoniously carving a turkey. After another Thanksgiving Dinner that was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone, it is clear that the Thanksgiving Dinner at the HCA is a tradition that is here to stay.

### **Christmas TGIF and January Hike**

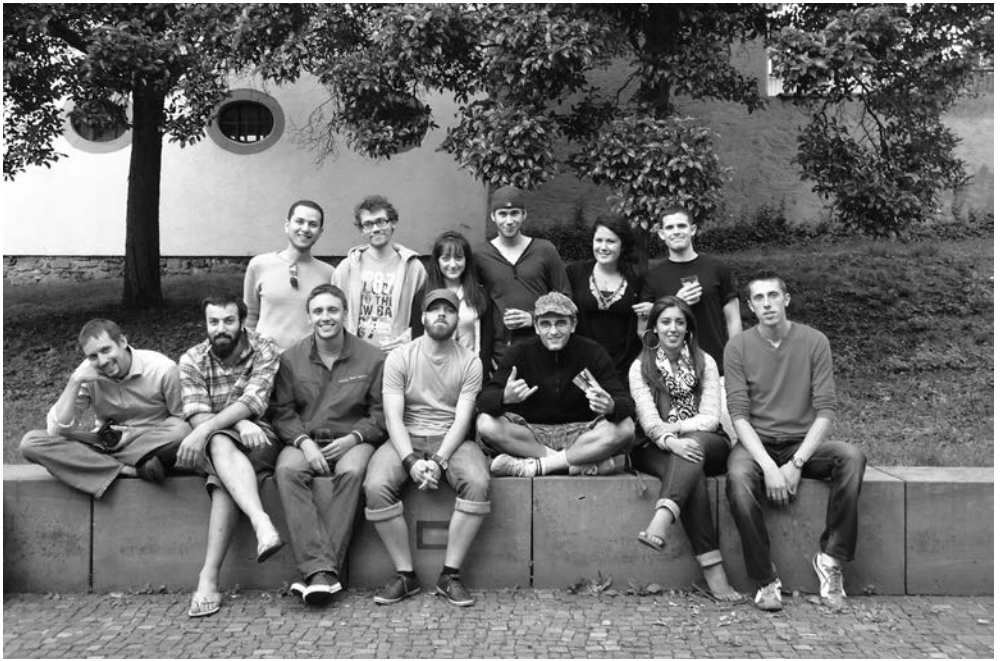
The last TGIF of 2010 was the Christmas TGIF on December 16. Students and staff all contributed to another potluck buffet and enjoyed an evening of

far too many but very delicious Christmas cookies, good conversations, and old time Christmas songs. HCA students go hiking at the first TGIF of 2011. On the first TGIF of 2011, M.A. students from the classes of 2011 and 2012, and most faculty and staff hiked to the Klosterhof Neuburg, an organic farm and porterhouse that is operated in consultation with the still existing Benedictine abbey dating back to the year 1130. During the beautiful walk up the Philosophenweg, we took to conversation, and many of us got to know each other better along the way. At the Klosterhof, we had some great food and drinks, with only a few of us able to resist having a taste of the beer from the monastery's brewery. It was a great opportunity to talk with professors, staff, and classmates on a social level and learn that many of us have similar interests. Everyone had a great time!

### **Bike Ride to Ladenburg**

On a warm summer day, joined by our fearless





The Class of 2012 Enjoys a Barbecue in the HCA's Backyard

leader, Professor Junker, staff members and students from the MAS 2012 class biked along the Neckar river to Ladenburg. Professor Junker led some historical discussions along the way, concerning both Heidelberg and Ladenburg, giving each a place and context in history. Once in Ladenburg, we were joined by Dr. Roberts, the Ghaemian visiting scholar, and all enjoyed an early dinner and refreshments at a local establishment. It was a perfect informal gathering of physical, intellectual, and social activities!

### Barbecue TGIF

The last TGIF of the summer semester brought together two of the best things of summer; a sunny warm day and barbecue. Many students from both the B.A. and the M.A. classes gathered along with HCA staff in the HCA's courtyard, where a grill was set up. Many guests brought delicious side dishes to contribute to a wonderful evening of

food, drink, and, best of all, conversation! Not only did this TGIF afford the opportunity for MAS and BAS students to get to know each other; it also proved that our students are not just very adept in their studies but also at preparing delicious salads and other side dishes.

### Neustadt an der Weinstraße

To welcome the new class of MAS students (2013), HCA staff, along with some of the class of MAS 2012, traveled to Neustadt for the wine festival. After the train ride, in which we got to know one another better and discussed our first week of school, we arrived to see the festival and fair in full swing! Battling the weather, we all took in some good wine, great discussions, and good food. Some were even brave enough to try one of the many rides, and our brave U.S. Marine, Lt. Nicholas Musto, showed off his shooting skills in one of the stalls. He impressed us all, and won



flowers for some of his classmates!

## **Berlin Seminar 2011: MAS Student Trip to the German Capital**

From June 6 to 10 the students of the MAS Class of 2012 went to Berlin to learn more about their host country, to attend events, and to visit institutions devoted to transatlantic relations. Tami Newton writes about her experiences and impressions of the trip.

Except for a bit of last-minute packing, all those forget-me-nots necessary for any overnight stay, and a mad dash to the main train station, June 6 started out like any other Monday after a weekend too short to remember. Although the weather that day showed no signs of the coming summer, the heavens did open up and smile long enough to kiss our morning start with a bit of sunshine. The MAS 2012 Berlin excursion officially kicked off with an 8:21 a.m. departure from Heidelberg's main train station and a brief stopover in Frankfurt am Main, where fourteen brave Indians and two great chieftains boarded a speedy choo-choo to the East. And then, off we went. At 10:13am.... BERLIN, BERLIN! The HCA MAS 2012 Class accompanied by two HCA coordinators all went to Berlin!

Our MAS Moments in Berlin got off to a great start. We arrived at the main station around 2:20 p.m. and headed straight to our quarters. Our curious tribe of multicultural, multilingual ambassadors from the HCA American Studies program did not lodge in mere teepees, however. The Hotel Transit Loft, a cozy hostel in Prenzlauer Berg where we stayed, is in the northeast of Berlin. The place was clean, comfortable and conveniently located. The staff spoke several languages, provided good and friendly service and went the extra mile to

accommodate our needs. The lodgings' proximity to Alexanderplatz was an added bonus.

After freshening up and shaking off the travel-weariness, we visited the American Academy, which is situated directly on the Wannsee, played a little soccer on the lawn overlooking the lake, and later enjoyed an intimate evening of chamber music performed by visiting students and faculty from the Curtis Institute of Music in Philadelphia and members of the Berliner Philharmoniker.

The following morning, we feasted on a breakfast of hot coffee, cold cuts, various cheeses, good old-fashioned German breads and an assortment of jams and marmalades before departing for our next great adventure. A guided bus tour around the city whetted our appetites for historical and political content to the point where we couldn't wait to pay Madame Chancellor a visit. We would have loved to discuss the future of German-American relations with her to find out how we could contribute.

But unfortunately, Angie wasn't in the office to personally receive us – probably went off to do some politicking or perhaps somebody simply forgot to inform her we intended to drop by for cake and coffee while in town. At any rate, our disappointment waned after an illustrative narrative of the Berlin-Bonn connection and a couple of hours touring the halls while gaining insight into the goings-on of a typical day in the chancellor's office, parliament sessions, and government officials hard at work discussing, debating and negotiating legislation.

It was then time for a little change of pace, so we made our way over to the dome and roof terrace of the Bundestag building, where each of us grabbed one of the handy listening devices with



The MAS Class of 2012 Explores Berlin

pre-recorded messages to serve as a personal guide. From there, we each went our merry little way up the spiral incline to the top. The heat coming through the glass windows was stifling, but the information-packed recordings made it all worthwhile.

By the third day of our MAS-sive adventure in Berlin.... Rain, Rain! Go away! Here and there, the sun played hide and seek, peeking out from behind the clouds and then disappearing quickly. Yet, not even a torrential downpour could stop the mighty MAS Class of 2012. We were on a mission. We too, after all, were Berliners, even if only for one week! And so with this mentality, we trudged off through inclement weather to visit the Kennedy Museum,

a true highlight with its treasure trove of original photographs, documents and film footage. Then, there was the Checkpoint Charlie Museum, a stark contrast to the Kennedy but equally revealing. After a rigorous day, it was soon time to recharge our batteries. Half starved, we stuffed our faces with burgers and steaks at *The Bird*. The place deserves its reputation for being the best of its kind in town. The food was so delicious, we ate until we were about to explode, and I need not speak of table manners here. Modesty and politesse were not exactly at the forefront of our minds.

On Thursday, we had a rather light schedule considering the previous days. We were introduced to the JFK Institute and Graduate Program at the

Freie Universität Berlin, where we also got the opportunity to browse through the center's library resources. And since it was our last night in town, a bit of partying was on the agenda for later that evening. Yes, that's right. PAR-TIE! So, what did we animals do to celebrate the end of a madly exciting week? You guessed it. While some of us actually did try to paint the town, others were so kaput they settled for the sofa in front of the lobby television. Then, there were those poor souls who turned in early after catching up on e-mails, telephone calls and current news. People were just beat.

On the last day, the sun was out in full force. Class members gathered into different interest groups and squeezed in everything from last-minute souvenir shopping to a Mocha Latte at the Brandenburger Tor. Many took the opportunity to check out the Jewish Museum and synagogues, others Museum Island. The few remaining enjoyed

a waterside view of the sights on a sunny boat trip through the city while sipping on Berliner Weiße and ice coffee.

Suffice it to say that our MAS Moments in Berlin have left us with unique memories. Doina Dumbravescu from Romania summed it up nicely. "Berlin started out as fun and excitingly new," she said, "then doubled with the Berlin Wall and Checkpoint Charlie, the Holocaust Memorial, twisted graffiti-filled streets, burgers, and the classical concerts, all ending up in the hostel lobby. Most definitely a memorable fun class trip!" The MAS Class of 2012 wishes all of those who follow much success, and we hope you benefit from the program just as much!

If you'd like to find out more about MAS and other HCA programs and events, visit the website, check out our newsletter or simply get in touch with the administration.



MAS Students Enjoy the Hospitality of the American Academy in Berlin-Wannsee





**A Center for Inter-  
disciplinary Research**

# A Center for Interdisciplinary Research

As a center for interdisciplinary research, the HCA provides the intellectual and organizational setting for international and interdisciplinary research projects as well as for individual research. Besides serving as a home for its resident scholars and numerous visiting researchers, the HCA hosts and organizes international conferences, symposia, workshops, and seminars.

## Ph.D. in American Studies

Launched in 2006, the Ph.D. in American Studies program continues to attract talented young people from around the world. Currently 23 students from 11 different countries are enrolled in the program, working on projects that bring various perspectives from cultural studies, political science, history, literature, linguistics, and film into a fruitful dialogue.

The HCA's Ph.D. in American Studies offers a structured three-year English-language program to students who wish to earn a research-oriented academic degree. The program aids students in acquiring the skills to independently conduct major scholarly research in the fields of American history, politics, geography, literature, and cultural studies. It not only offers a modern multidisciplinary curriculum but is committed to building a true community of scholars by fostering academic debate and continual exchange among students and faculty members. Graduates are awarded either a "Doktor der Philosophie (Dr. phil.\*)" or a "Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.\*)" according to their choice.

To apply successfully, candidates need to fulfill not only the general entrance requirements, but must also present a meaningful proposal that sketches the guiding questions of the dissertation project while embedding them in the current academic

debates. The project proposal should demonstrate that the dissertation will make an important and original contribution to the field. The proposal should also outline the source materials that will be used and provide a realistic timetable for the completion of the project.

Furthermore, applicants need a letter of intent from a professor at Heidelberg University that she or he is willing to be their advisor for the envisaged project. In addition to the letter of intent, candidates must provide two letters of recommendation that not only assess their academic qualifications but also evaluate the proposed dissertation project.

In October 2011, four new students – Michael Drescher (Germany), Axel Kaiser (Chile), Styles Sass (USA), and Kathleen Schöberl (USA) – joined the Ph.D. in American Studies. Simultaneously, the HCA bade farewell to another student who graduated successfully from the program: Mohamed Metawe from Egypt (see page 103). As in the years before, a number of Ph.D. students are alumni of the MAS program, and several work as teaching assistants for the MAS and BAS programs.

## Curriculum

Once admitted, students are expected to take one class on theory, one class on academic writing, and one presentation and media skills class. For the duration of their enrollment, students are required to attend the Ph.D. colloquium. Regular progress reports and orientation talks with advisors are also an integral part of our Ph.D. program.

### Theories and Issues in American Studies

(Dr. Mischa Honeck, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss, PD Dr. Martin Thunert)

This course is designed to acquaint Ph.D. students with key concepts and debates in the four subject areas that form the core of American Studies at the HCA: literature, cultural studies, history, and political science. The class cuts across disciplinary landscapes and boundaries to give students a better understanding of the major contentions each of the four subjects brings to the pluralistic, contested, and dynamic field of American Studies. True to the interdisciplinary fabric of the HCA, the course is co-taught by faculty members with different areas of specialization. Among the various theorists and writers discussed are F.O. Matthiessen, Sacvan Bercovitch, Judith Butler, Toni Morrison, Paul Gilroy, Peter Novick, Hayden White, Lynne Cheney, Thomas Bender, Louis Hartz, Rogers Smith, and Richard Rorty. The course addresses issues and concepts such as deconstruction, imagined communities, gender, performance, postcolonialism, historical objectivity, memory, globalization, international relations, liberalism, and communitarianism.

## Academic Writing

(Dr. Anja Schüller)

A successful doctorate depends on good research ideas and hard work but also on careful planning, drafting, writing, revising, improving, and finishing the text. This class focuses on the academic writing process: planning a sequence of chapters, organizing chapters and papers, writing in a clear professional style, managing the writing process, and pulling together a final draft. The course also addresses problems of grammar and style and gives many practical suggestions students can try out and adapt to their own needs. In addition, many Ph.D. students find that dealing with these issues as a group helps them to confront and solve the dilemmas every author must confront. Thus the HCA supports a more informal writer's group for second and third year Ph.D. students.

### Media and Presentation Skills

(Millie Baker)

This course is a four-day seminar split into two modules in which students are encouraged to gain insight into the subtleties of verbal and non-verbal communication to help get their message across. They learn how to assess their presentation strengths and weaknesses and experiment with new communication strategies. Furthermore, this course helps students to develop a critical awareness of their own and each other's presentation styles; to develop strategies for dealing with unexpected or difficult situations, e.g. answering questions, technical problems, or audience hostility; and to develop confidence in public speaking. Therefore, it is essential that participants receive not only verbal feedback from the trainer and each other, but also see themselves presenting on video (each student receives a copy of this video on disk to study at home).

## Ph.D. Colloquium

Jointly organized by Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg, Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt and Dr. Mischa Honeck, the Ph.D. colloquium offers Ph.D. candidates and visiting scholars the opportunity to present and discuss their research in an open, interdisciplinary setting. Participants are encouraged to give feedback and to engage in scholarly debates to presenters from various disciplines in the field of American Studies. The participants of the Ph.D. colloquium meet weekly in the winter term and take part in an extended two-day session in the summer term. The Ph.D. colloquium in the winter semester of 2010-2011 was directed by Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt. It opened with a presentation by Anja Milde on a segment of her dissertation project titled "Claiming a Place at the Table: The Gay Liberation Front, the Black Panther Party, and the Complexity of Coalition Politics, 1969-1971." HCA Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence Patrick Roberts delivered a talk on "FEMA from the Ashes: Disaster Policy in the United States amid the Ratcheting Up of Expectations." Jiawei Mao, Eva-Maria Kiefer, Ray Eberling (all students of the HCA Ph.D. Program), Erik Riedling (Augsburg University), and Johannes Völz (Frankfurt University) presented their latest research to the HCA community.

Doctoral students from the History and English Departments at Heidelberg University also made important contributions to our winter colloquium: Andreas Riffel investigated "Violence and Racism in the U.S.-Mexican War;" Johannes Steffens gave

a talk on "The Racial Integration of the American Workplace: How U.S. And Foreign Companies Ended Racial Discrimination in Employment," Anne Pusch shared her ideas about "Pets: Posthumanist Discussions Concerning the Relationship between Humans and Animals in the Contemporary American Novel."

As in previous years, the winter colloquium also featured two interesting presentations by visiting scholars. Stephen Mennell (University College Dublin) gave a talk on "Is There Any Such Thing as 'American National Character': Peculiarities of the American Civilizing Process," while Daniel Stein (Göttingen), the first recipient of the Rolf-Kentner Prize, introduced his work on Louis Armstrong, titled "'My Life Has Always Been an Open Book': Louis Armstrong, American Autobiographer."

In July 2011, the Ph.D. colloquium relocated once again to the Schulungszentrum Ritschweier near Weinheim for its traditional two-day summer workshop. In a pleasant and inspiring atmosphere, in the presence of their colleagues and professors, seven Ph.D. students from the HCA – Melanie Gish, Maarten Paulusse, Hannes Nagl, Erhan Simsek, Hasan Adwan, Stephen Urich, and Iris Hahn-Santoro – as well as guests from the Transcultural Studies Center at Heidelberg University discussed their research projects and received valuable feedback. On Friday evening, visiting professor Elizabeth Hewitt from Ohio State University gave a fascinating talk on public financing in the Early Republic.



### Hasan Adwan (Palestine)

Class of 2013

Hasan Adwan was born in Gaza City, in the Palestinian Territories, in 1985. He studied the International Baccalaureate in Norway at Red Cross Nordic United World College between 2002 and 2004. In 2005, he was awarded the Davis-UWC scholarship to study at Westminster College in Missouri. He received a Bachelor of Art with a double major in Political Science and American History. After completing his bachelor studies he moved to Germany where he attended the HCA and earned a master degree. Hasan Adwan joined the HCA's Ph.D. program in 2011. He is also working as a student assistant at the HCA, tutoring a course on the government and politics of the United States. Hasan Adwan's current research deals primarily with the impact U.S. foreign aid has had on Middle East politics. His dissertation working title is "U.S. Foreign Aid and the Decline of the Peace Party."



The elections of 2006 in the Palestinian Territories marked a turning point in contemporary Middle Eastern history. The rise of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, at the cost of the decline of Palestinian Liberation Movement, Fatah, meant that the Middle East peace process had reached a deadlock. Hamas' electoral victory and its subsequent takeover of the Gaza Strip drove the region into a more unstable direction. Hasan Adwan's dissertation seeks to develop a better understanding of the relationship between the Palestinian authority and Fatah on the one hand and the United States on the other. The thesis focuses particularly on U.S. foreign aid to the Palestinian National Authority and how this aid contributed to Fatah's failure in the 2006 parliamentary elections and the party's continuing decline. Despite the extensive research on this particular election cycle, and the consequences of Hamas' rise to power, research has on occasionally focused on the role of U.S. foreign aid and how the Palestinian voters' perception of the purpose of this financial assistance led them to rethink their support for Fatah. The required policy adjustments by the United States, as precondition for these grants and loans, on behalf of the PNA contributed to President Abbas' and Fatah's loss of popularity among Palestinian voters. If the "peace party" is to rise again, American foreign aid policies need to be re-examined and adjusted.

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert

## **Thi Diem Ngoc Dao (Vietnam)**

Heidemarie Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship / Class of 2012

Born in 1984, Thi Diem Ngoc graduated from the College of Foreign Languages, Vietnam National University, with a B.A. degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) in 2006. She joined the HCA's Master in American Studies program in 2008 History, International Business Culture, and Political Science as her majors and qualified for the HCA Ph.D. program with a thesis about "Moving on to a Common Ground: Vietnam-U.S. Normalization of Relations, 1990-1997."



Thi Diem Ngoc's project focuses on the main themes of Vietnam-U.S. relations in the late twentieth century from historical and political perspectives. After the Vietnam War, the "continuation of war by other means" among American people and policymakers to codify the meaning of the war and cope with its legacy seemingly made normal relations between two countries a remote possibility. The freeze of Vietnam-U.S. relations dragged on, despite early efforts to improve relations and remove the U.S. economic sanctions on Vietnam. It was only in 1995 that President Clinton established regular diplomatic relations with Vietnam. Preceded by the lifting of the U.S. trade embargo on Vietnam in 1993, establishing diplomatic relations was a critical move to thaw relations between two countries. There has been a wealth of literature on the Vietnam War; however, little has been done to shed light on how the U.S. and Vietnam have come to achieve reconciliation and "move on to common ground." Therefore, the project intends to explore the complexities of the normalization process as well as to specify the most important factor contributing to normalized relations in the 1990s. Thi Diem Ngoc draws on the following points in her research: 1) the significance of prisoners of war and missing-in-action (POW/MIA) resolution in the Vietnamese and U.S. political contexts; 2) the weight of mutual economic and security interests in moving towards normalization of relations; and 3) state and non-state actors' roles in the establishment of normal relations. Hopefully, the significance of this project will illustrate a turning point in Vietnam-U.S. relations against a haunting past of war memories and ideological conflicts.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg.

## Maria Diaconu (Romania)

Heidemarie Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship / Class of 2011

Maria Diaconu received her B.A. from the University of Bucharest, Romania, majoring in English and minoring in American Studies, with a B.A. thesis concerned with the Beat Generation writers and the American avant-garde movements. She completed an M.A. degree in American Studies at the Heidelberg University with her thesis "Narrating Memory: A comparative study of Toni Morrison's *Beloved* and William Faulkner's *The Sound and the Fury*." At the moment, she is in the process of finishing her dissertation, which deals with the post 9/11 novel. She has also worked as a tutor for American literature within the HCA master's program.



Her dissertation "The Literature of Trauma: Perspectives on 9/11" explores the various literary responses to September 11, including references to 9/11 poetry, film, art, and popular culture. In the aftermath of September 11, many voices pronounced irony and postmodernist playfulness dead and hailed a return of the real. Are we witnessing a turning point in American culture and literature, "a return of the real," as some critics seem to suggest, or are these new literary works simply using 9/11 as a background for re-enacting the same major themes of pre-9/11 literature? This is the main question that the dissertation intends to tackle by offering an overview of the major 9/11 literary works, which Maria Diaconu has divided into three categories that often overlap and that serve as the basis for a more comprehensive analysis. Due to the complexity and the wide variety of literary responses to the event, her methodology encompasses an extensive array of recent cultural studies' theories, ranging from literary trauma theory and transnationalism to the representation of terrorism. While never losing sight of the differences between the approaches of the works it deals with, the dissertation attempts to offer a unitary perspective on the subject.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss.

## **Michael Rodegang Drescher (Germany)**

Class of 2014

Michael R. Drescher was born in Kassel, Germany, in 1985. He studied English Philology, Political Science and Law at Heidelberg University and received his Magister degree with honors in 2011. After receiving a scholarship from the Ontario-Baden-Württemberg Program, Michael spent one year at the University of Western Ontario in Canada. Among others, his academic interests are the study of resistance and dissent, the representation of democratic processes in literature, the development of human rights, and modern political theory. During his studies, he worked for the English Department as tutor and was elected student representative. He also assisted in organizing MESEA's 2010 conference "Travel, Trade, and Ethnic Transformations" in Hungary. Drescher is currently working as lecturer for American Language and Culture at Heidelberg University and as language trainer for BASF.



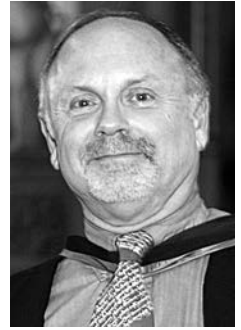
Michael Drescher's dissertation project "Poets of Protest – The Representation of Dissent in American Antebellum and German Vormärz Literature" endeavors to analyze and describe the representations of dissent in American and German literature before and during the revolutionary periods in the middle of the nineteenth century. It employs a hermeneutic and comparative method, focusing on image, function, and evaluation of dissent as depicted in given national literatures. Furthermore, it searches for intertextual links, sources, and common elements which inform the representations. By uniting a literary method with theories of political process, this project strives to be a contribution to the field of American literature as well as to democratic theory. Its results are meant to inform a transatlantic and political approach towards literature and its implications for trans-cultural protest studies between Europe and North America.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt.

## **Raymond Eberling (USA)**

Class of 2010

Raymond Eberling was born in 1948 in Suffern, New York, and is a retired U.S. Air Force lieutenant colonel, who spent the majority of his career as a navigator. He has also done tours of duty at the Pentagon, the U.S. Special Operations Command, and Headquarters, United States Air Forces Europe. Ray holds a B.A. in Education from the University of Florida, an M.S. in Systems Management from the University of Southern California, and a B.A. with distinction in Creative Writing from Eckerd College, St. Petersburg, Florida. In 2006 he received his M.A. in American Studies at Heidelberg University. He is currently an adjunct instructor in the American Studies program at Eckerd College. Since entering the Ph.D. program he has presented at the HCA Spring Academy (2008) and most recently at the annual meeting of the Florida Historical Society. He was also 2010's Visiting Scholar at the University of Florida's Samuel Proctor Oral History Program.



Raymond Eberling's dissertation is titled, "'Come on Down!' The Selling of the Florida Dream in the Post-War Era" and details the state's official government-funded efforts to get people and industry to move to Florida in the twenty years after World War II. The majority of these efforts concerned print, radio, and television advertising. Additional chapters detail the intersection of these efforts with other issues impacting Florida during that time period, such as race, growth, the environment, and the development of planned communities.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg.

## **Melanie Gish (Germany)**

Curt Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship / Class of 2011

Melanie Gish graduated from the University of Mannheim with a B.A. in German and Geography in 2003, and from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada, with an M.A. in German in 2004. At Waterloo, she focused on cultural studies and questions of intertextuality in the fiction of German writer Helmut Krausser and worked as a research assistant in the Linguistics Department. From 2005 until 2007, Melanie Gish lived in Tennessee and Colorado and held several non-academic jobs, ranging from 'sandwich artist' at Subway restaurants to cultural program coordinator at the Denver Public Library. Overall, her experiences in the U.S. triggered the wish to engage in



a more disciplined and systematic American Studies effort and in 2007 she received the HCA Director's Fellowship to participate in the MAS program. Melanie Gish is a member of the Ph.D. Class of 2011; her dissertation "'We're evangelical and we're environmental, and, yes, we think we can be both!' The Creation Care Movement in the Contemporary United States from an Outside Perspective" explores the intersection of American evangelicalism and environmentalism.

Evangelical environmentalism – or creation care – is a fairly new empirical phenomenon in the United States that has not yet been assessed comprehensively on the ideological and organizational levels. Most of the non-profits currently active were founded in the past three to ten years, and there are only a few non-theological academic publications on evangelical environmentalism specifically. Hence, the overarching goal of Melanie Gish's thesis is an investigation of the programmatic and organizational foundations of creation care and its motives and means; the movement's opportunities and obstacles; as well as its historical, cultural, and political contextualization with the aim to better understand the 'inside' of this movement from an 'outside perspective.' While pursuing this primarily hermeneutical task, her thesis adds sociologically relevant knowledge to the literature on American evangelicalism, environmentalism, and citizen 'lobbying,' and contributes to the ongoing debate on the interplay of religion and politics in the public sphere. The core of Melanie Gish's data are qualitative interviews with creation care movement leaders conducted during an extensive research trip to the U.S. in 2010, which was generously supported by the Graduate Academy and the Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars.

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert.

### **Iris Hahn-Santoro (Germany)**

Class of 2010

Iris Hahn-Santoro received her M.A. in Linguistics, Scandinavian Studies, and Philosophy from the University of Cologne in 2002. She wrote her thesis on anglicisms and neologisms in contemporary Icelandic, focusing on computer terminology. As part of her research, she spent a year at the University of Iceland. After receiving her M.A., Iris Hahn-Santoro served as a research assistant in the Arctic Studies Center at the Smithsonian Institute's National Museum of Natural History in Washington, D.C.



Iris Hahn-Santoro's dissertation examines the sociolinguistic factors that play major roles in Native American language revitalization efforts. She spent several months in the United States last year conducting her field research with the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe in Michigan. Utilizing a multi-methodological approach consisting of participant observation, questionnaires and interviews, she will identify the different sociolinguistic factors that influence the tribal members' decisions on whether or not to participate in language revitalization efforts. She will also take different levels of language setting into consideration, for example domestic versus public use. This is a particularly contested area in this case study since although the Ojibwe language is considered extinct in this region, an immersion school has been established for tribal members. This bottom-up process is a reversal of the more common top-down language death process, which typically takes place in public settings first and survives in the domestic domain. Iris Hahn-Santoro presented her findings and progress during the HCA's Ph.D. colloquium in July 2011.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Joern Albrecht.

### **Axel Kaiser (Chile)**

Class of 2014

Axel Kaiser was born in Santiago de Chile in 1981. He is a lawyer with Master's degree in International Law from Heidelberg University. From 2007 to 2009 he worked as a business lawyer and as legislative adviser to a Chilean senator. In 2008, he started writing for the Cato Institute in Washington, D.C., and in 2009 he became professor of Latin-American politics and political philosophy at two Universities in Chile. Since 2005 he is an opinion columnist of the Chilean financial newspaper *Diario Financiero* in Chile. In 2011 he obtained the degree of Master of Arts in American Studies from the HCA.



In the 1970s and 1980s Chile completely overhauled its economic system. It was a free market revolution led by a group of young economists trained in the United States, mainly at the University of Chicago. These reforms had influence beyond Chilean borders, setting the stage for economic reforms in other countries. Until now the discussion over the Chilean free market revolution has focused on its technical aspects. There has been little research on its philosophical foundations, that is to say, on the ideas which were behind the economic reforms. In his dissertation project "Jose Piñera and the American philosophical foundations of the Chilean free market revolution," Axel Kaiser will focus on the work of one particular reformer, Jose Piñera, who was one

of the central actors of the free market revolution. Kaiser will explore the American libertarian philosophy, including the Founding Fathers and others that inspired Piñera's work shaping the new economic system in Chile.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Katja Patzel-Mattern.

### **Eva-Maria Kiefer (Germany)**

Ph.D. Scholarship from Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung / Class of 2013

Eva-Maria Kiefer received her Magister degree in American Studies, Psychology and Political Science from Bonn University. In 2007, she spent a year at the University of Pennsylvania on a scholarship of the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), where she gained expertise in political science and wrote an independent study on power shifts in the U.S. government. During her studies, she completed internships at the Federal Foreign Office of Germany and the German Institute for International and Foreign Affairs. In November 2009, she wrote her Magister thesis about the "imperial" Bush presidency. In October 2010, Eva-Maria Kiefer joined the HCA as a Ph.D. student. Together with Iris Hahn-Santoro, she is also working as the coordinator for the B.A. program at the HCA.



Eva-Maria Kiefer's research focuses on how fear and threat shaped U.S. congressional behavior in the years after 9/11. She argues that the threat after 9/11 was multidimensional. The dissertation will include a case study of laws from the realm of homeland and national security and aspires to explain when different threat mechanisms had an influence on congressional activity. The working title of her Ph.D. thesis is: "U.S. Government in Times of Crisis: How the Dynamics of Fear and Threat shaped Congressional Behavior after 9/11".

In September 2011, Eva-Maria Kiefer took part in a conference at Heidelberg University on the tenth anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. She will also contribute a text on terrorism and the media in the USA to a book that will be published following the conference.

Supervisors: Prof. Dr. Sebastian Harnisch, Dr. habil. Martin Thunert.



## Barbara Kujath (Canada)

Class of 2011

Born in 1979 in Calgary, Canada, Barbara Kujath studied German as a Foreign Language, Philology, and English Philology with a focus on literature at the Ruperto Carola. She earned an M.A. in English Philology in 2007 and worked as an assistant lecturer in the English Department at Heidelberg University from 2007 until 2009.



Barbara Kujath's Ph.D. project is entitled "The Emergence of a New Concern with and

Understanding of Violence in American Culture of the 1960s and 1970s." The 1960s and 70s in America were decades of change on many levels and saw the advent of scientific and cultural discourse on the subject of violence. Barbara Kujath's project deals with the role both serious and popular literature played at the time in shaping American cultural perceptions and attitudes toward violence and in particular toward violent crime. Some of the more central novels that will be analyzed include *The Executioner's Song* by Norman Mailer as well as Truman Capote's *In Cold Blood*, *The Family* by Ed Sanders, *Helter Skelter* by Vincent Bugliosi as well as Robert Bloch's *Psycho*.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss.

## Julia Kristina Lichtenstein (Germany)

Curt Engelhorn Ph.D. Scholarship / Class of 2012

Julia Kristina Lichtenstein studied at the J.W. Goethe University in Frankfurt/Main where she received her B.A and M.A in American Studies, Political Science and Law in 2008. During her studies she was awarded a DAAD internship scholarship and was nominated for the best M.A thesis of the American Studies Department at Frankfurt University. In October 2009 Julia joined the HCA Ph.D. program, receiving the Curt-Engelhorn Scholarship.



Julia Lichtenstein's dissertation with the working title "Inner and Outer Space: Literary Negotiations of Southern Identity in Post-Southern Times" investigates how contemporary Southern authors Barry Hannah, Larry Brown, and Harry Crews create and perpetuate a distinctive Southern literary space she calls the "Ultra-South." At first glance contemporary Southern storytelling still reproduces and perpetuates traditional literary Southern tropes, but a closer investigation reveals their alienating role as empty signifiers. The

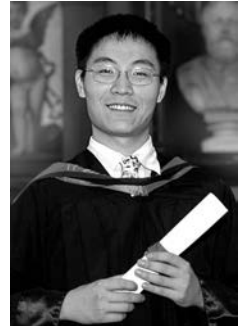
equivalents of the Southern Gothic rotting mansion are in today's suburbs or trailer parks, residences with bad substance built with dirty or loaned money. William Faulkner's history-ridden cast is distortedly mirrored in Hannah's cat-fish-frying, cheap porn-bootlegging country folks, who sneer at mainstream America, or in Brown's white trash, who term Oxford, Miss., "up north" and ironically have never heard about the Civil War. In the investigated works, Julia Lichtenstein argues, the readers are lured into the Ultra-South by familiar markers and known defining features just to find themselves surrounded by surprisingly unfamiliar territory, yet a territory still well-defined and with sometimes still seemingly impenetrable borders. Within the portrayed version of the South, a space Julia Lichtenstein calls the inner space is constituted by cultural practices and brings forth the imagined region. A strong and resilient regional identity is constituted and communicated both in the protagonists and in the reader embedded in the outer space of the United States as a whole.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt.

### Jiawei Mao (China)

HCA Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship, Landesgraduiertenförderung / Class of 2010

Born in 1983 in Ningbo, China, Jiawei Mao received his B.A. in English and International Relations from the China Foreign Affairs University in 2006. During his undergraduate studies, Mao was actively engaged in various academic contests involving English public speaking and international relations. He received the "Best Speaker Award" at the FLTRP Cup National English Debating Competition in 2005 and attended the English Speaking Union's International Relations Conference at Oriol College at Oxford University in 2006. He was also a participant in the Harvard Model United Nations Conference in 2006. Mao worked as a journalist with the *New Beijing Daily* in 2004 and 2005 and as a freelance writer and translator. His Chinese translation of Jane Austin's *Sense and Sensibility* was recently published by the Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press in Beijing, China.



Jiawei Mao entered the HCA's MAS program in 2006 as recipient of the LBBW Scholarship 2006-07, majoring in Law, History, and International Business Culture. In 2007, he earned his M.A. with a thesis entitled "Honeymoon Turned Nightmare: Why the Neoconservative U.S. Foreign Policy Is Doomed to Fail"

Mao is currently working on his dissertation entitled "Chronicle of a Long March Retold: A Political-Economic Analysis of the Sino-U.S. Negotiations on China's Resumption of the GATT Contracting Party Status and Its Accession to the World Trade Organization," which aims at integrating political science and economic history in the context of trade relations between today's largest economy and the one with the potential to be tomorrow's. By studying the dramatic institutional change in the world trade regime over the 1990s and its far-reaching impact on the shifting principle, pattern, and priorities of the two countries' trade policies, he attempts to analyze the causal links between seemingly independent issues. Mao has conducted interviews with members of both Chinese and American delegations at various stages of the negotiation and has done archive research at various Chinese institutions and has worked with the Peterson Institute of International Economics and the U.S.-China Business Council. Having presented his project at HCA's annual Ph.D. Colloquium in Oberflockenbach and Weinheim in 2008 and 2009 respectively, Mao also presented part of his work at the 2010 World Trade Organization Public Forum in Geneva and was critically well received.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker.

### **Anja Milde (Germany)**

HCA Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the BASF Group / Class of 2011

Anja Milde received her B.A. in Philology and Communication Science from the University of Erfurt in 2003. She then came to Heidelberg University, majoring in History and Art history. Before joining the HCA's Master program in 2007, she spent a year on a Fulbright scholarship at Trinity College in Hartford, Conn., where she majored in American Studies, and then interned at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. During her studies, she specialized in American History, Politics, and Constitutional Law with a particular focus on social movements in the U.S. She is currently working on her Ph.D. thesis on the linkages between the civil and gay rights movements. In 2009-10, she spent seven months in the U.S. researching her dissertation and conducting a series of interviews with leading figures of both movements, politicians, and intellectuals. Since the fall of 2007, she has been working at the HCA as a public relations assistant and tutor for American History. In March 2010, she took on the position of Spring Academy coordinator.



Anja Milde's dissertation "'Liberal Oases in Conservative Hell': Blacks, Gays,

and the Struggle for Equality” attempts to discuss the volatile matter of the relationship between African Americans and homosexuals. It includes insights and experiences on minority relations by historians, politicians, activists, writers, and organizers. It deals with such sensible issues as hate crimes legislation; racism in gay and lesbian rights organizations; homophobia in the black church and communities; the shift in highest rate-of-infection of HIV from the gay community to the black community; the visibility and acceptability of black homosexuality; and coalition building and outreach programs. The project aims at examining controversial issues facing blacks and gays, outlining a history of black gay identities and politics from around the late 1960s until today. It analyzes major themes in gay history as well as African American history: connections between civil rights and gay rights; black power and gay liberation; the search for personal connection and belonging; civil/equal rights legislation; and coalition-building processes between the two. The project involved a lot of local archival work for personal and organizational records, community newspapers, and oral history and will recount the experiences and efforts of several important figures and organizations.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg.

### **Cristina Stanca-Mustea (Romania)**

HCA Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the BASF Group / Class of 2009

Cristina Stanca-Mustea was born in Bucharest, Romania, in 1982. She received her B.A. in Romanian and American Studies from the University of Bucharest in 2005. Christina Stanca-Mustea was the recipient of the DAAD Fellowship as part of the STIBET program and received her M.A. in American Studies from Heidelberg University in 2006. She majored in Literature, Religious Studies, and Law. Her thesis was entitled “Carl Laemmle and the Making of Hollywood.”



The title of her Ph.D. dissertation is “Carl Laemmle: A Transatlantic Mediator.” The thesis explores the ways in which the life and career of Carl Laemmle, a German immigrant of Jewish origin, changed the American and European entertainment landscape by founding the the first major film studio in Hollywood in 1912: Universal Pictures. Moreover, the dissertation analyzes Laemmle’s intensive support for saving more than 200 German Jews on the eve of World War II by providing affidavits and offering jobs at Universal Pictures.

Cristina Stanca-Mustea has conducted research in Berlin, in the archives of Deutsche Kinemathek and at the Library of the John-F.-Kennedy Institute. She also spent one month at the New York Public Library and the Lincoln Center for Performing Arts in New York and another month at the Center for Motion Picture Research at the Margaret Herrick Library in Hollywood. She collected evidence of Laemmle's extensive involvement in the German and American political and cultural life and his support for German Jews under the Nazi regime. Furthermore, she had the chance to consult rare documents of early film history, which provided a clearer insight into the beginnings of the motion picture business of motion pictures. This archival research States was supported by the Ghaemian Travel Fund. In September 2011, Christina Stanca-Mustea took part in the German Studies Association conference in Louisville, Kentucky, where she gave a talk on "Carl Laemmle and the Founding of the Modern Studio System" at the German Historical Institute panel about "German Immigrant Entrepreneurs in American Material Life, Politics and Culture: Hollywood Dream Worlds."

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Philipp Gassert.

### **Hannes Nagl (Germany)**

Class of 2012

Hannes Nagl studied English literature and Political Science at Heidelberg University. After graduating in 2009, he joined the HCA's Ph.D. program working on a thesis on "Figurations of Violence: Contemporary American Fiction and the Sociology of Modernization." From August 2010 to July 2011 he was a research assistant at the English Department as part of the research project "Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to American Literature and Culture." At the HCA, he is responsible for the institute's website and is working as a teaching assistant for American literature.

In his thesis, Hannes Nagl will analyze different contemporary American novels which are notorious for their depictions of violence. By doing so, he will especially focus on the following questions: What motivates the fascination with violence in contemporary American literature? How do these representations of violence square with the notion of a "pacified" and "civilized" society? The basic assumption that underlies the project is that such novels offer not only entertainment and thrill, but can be read as socio-analytical novels, which present a quasi-sociological analysis of the role violence plays



in postmodern American society. From this perspective, the main aim of the thesis will be to make these socio-analytical and, to a certain extent, socio-critical aspects of contemporary “novels of violence” transparent. In order to do so, Hannes Nagl will draw on rather uncommon theoretical sources: Besides more recent sociological research on violence, he will use Norbert Elias’ “theory of civilization” and other sociological theories of modernization as a theoretical background for the interpretations of the novels.

Although Elias’ theory is rather uncommon for literary studies and has been applied only rarely to an American context, his approach to modernization and modern society as well as his writings on the sociology of modern sport are considered as a promising and a fruitful theoretical model for analyzing both the “sociological” and aesthetic aspects of contemporary novels of violence. From an Elasian perspective, the literary and cultural fascination with violence and the reality of “pacified” modern societies are not contradictory, but rather complementary facts. Beyond the individual “worlds” of the novels, the Elasian approach will thus also help to shed new light on the various restraints and self-restraints that establish social discipline and peaceful cooperation in “civilized” Western societies as well as on the cultural role of real and imaginary violence in this context.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss.

### **Maarten Paulusse (Holland)**

Class of 2013

Maarten Paulusse was born in 1984 in the town of Hilversum in The Netherlands. He received his bachelor’s degree in History at Utrecht University in 2007. In 2009 he completed his master’s degree in American Studies at the same university with a thesis on the appeal of the Bush administration to the “apocalyptic climate” in the United States from 2001 to 2004. During his studies at Utrecht University he did an internship with the U.S. correspondent of the leading Dutch current affairs television program *Nova* in New York City and undertook several other ventures into journalism. In the summers of 2010 and 2011 Maarten Paulusse taught two courses on Dutch history and culture at the Summer School of Utrecht University to international students at the bachelor level. He also served as a coordinator of several other Summer School courses offered by the Department of History.



Maarten Paulusse started his dissertation research in the Spring Semester of 2011. The study, with the working title "Politically Engaged Spirituality in the American Public Sphere" will explore the ways in which politicized forms of "new spirituality" are having an impact on the public sphere in the United States. In this way the project aims to make a contribution to the contemporary debate on the role of religion in American politics. In this far from settled debate among historians, political scientists, sociologists, theologians, and other analysts of public life in the U. S., the focus in the past two decades has been on the "Christian Right" and the "babyboom" cohort. In this research the matter will primarily be explored from the angle of the movement of "Spiritual Progressives," sometimes referred to as the "Religious Left," which includes the "spiritual but not religious." The dissertation will also explore the interaction between this movement and the "Millennial Generation," which is emerging as the most influential political force in the United States.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Inken Prohl.

### **Styles Sass (USA)**

Class of 2014

Styles Sass received his bachelor's degree in English from the University of Iowa. After teaching in the Basque country of Northern Spain, he moved to Germany, where he was awarded several writing fellowships and published a collection of poetry and prose pieces titled *More Than These Few Days*. For his master's degree in American Studies at Heidelberg University, he wrote on the intersection of literature and politics in presidential campaign narratives. He lives in Stuttgart where he works as a writer, editor, and teacher.



In his dissertation project "Gaining the Nation: Campaign Narratives and Their Use in the 2008 and 2012 Presidential Elections," Styles Sass will begin with a discussion of what narratives are and why they are important in the political arena. After delineating both the Democratic and Republican campaign narratives from 2008, he will do the same for those of the 2012 race. In comparing and cross-comparing these two sets of narratives, Sass will focus on how those from 2008 both maintained a necessary consistency while, at the same time, were adapted to fit the new environment in which the 2012 election took place. Finally, he will look at what these campaign narratives have to say about the current landscape of American political sentiment.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss.

## **Kathleen Schöberl (USA)**

Class of 2014

Kathleen Schoeberl received a B.A. with honors from the College of William and Mary in 2000 and completed an M.A. and teaching licensure in English there in 2001. Since then, she has worked in the Washington, D.C., area and various locations in Germany in the roles of high school and college instructor in the humanities, school librarian, translator, and proofreader. She was a 2004 Writing Project Fellow at George Mason University, a graduate student in Library Science at the Catholic University of America in 2006 and 2007, and has been a presenter at both the European Council and German Association of International Schools.



Her dissertation project investigates reasons for the growing prominence of Zen Buddhism in American therapeutic discourse, specifically the role of Zen in self-help for traumatic experiences, as a secular “add-on” to existing faith practices. If the introduction of Zen to the West in the nineteenth century was, as Thomas Tweed claims, attractive because it reinforced American concepts of theism, individualism, optimism, and activism, this project asks to what extent manifestations of Zen in modern therapeutic discourse reveal a willingness to reinterpret these same concepts.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt.

## **Juste Šimelyte (Lithuania)**

HCA Ph.D. in American Studies Scholarship supported by the Landesgraduiertenförderung Baden-Württemberg / Class of 2011

Juste Šimelyte studied at the Law Faculty of Vilnius University in Lithuania, where she received her master’s degree in June 2007. Before that, Juste was in Heidelberg in 2006 as a recipient of an Erasmus – Socrates scholarship. In October 2007 she returned to Heidelberg and began her studies at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, where she received her M.A. in American Studies. In Lithuania, Juste worked as a legal consultant at the Law Clinic of Vilnius University, offering pro bono legal advice.



Juste Šimelyte’s dissertation “Americanization and Europeanization: Two Forms of Cultural Globalization in Lithuania” encompasses both theoretical issues of Americanization and Europeanization as well as empirical research based on data collected in Lithuania. Her research project deals with the



change of Lithuanian spaces and places and how Lithuanians perceive it. It also analyzes the role place and space play for self-understanding and the imagination of the Other. New social tensions that arose as a result of the qualitatively transformed space and place are of particular interest. The examination of the shift of values and consumption in Lithuania shows the peculiarities of the perceptions of Americanization and Europeanization.

Supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert.

### **Erhan Simsek (Turkey)**

Class of 2013

Born in Ankara, Turkey, Erhan Simsek received his B.A in English Language Teaching from Middle East Technical University with a minor degree in European Studies. In 2009, he received his M.A from the HCA, writing his M.A thesis on American literature. After his M.A, he continued his studies at the Free University of Berlin. In 2010, Erhan Simsek returned to Heidelberg, this time as a Ph.D. student at the HCA. The working title of his dissertation is "Changing Images of Business and Businessmen in American Fiction and Social Thought, 1880-1929."



Erhan Simsek's dissertation analyzes the changes in the image of businessmen from 1880 to 1929 by looking at the relationship between fiction and social thought of the period. Although business was one of the important components of American society, novels concerned mainly with business and businessmen appeared only with the rise of realism in the late nineteenth century. Some of the novels he intends to analyze are *The Rise of Silas Lapham* by William Dean Howells, *The Financier* by Theodore Dreiser, and *Babbitt* by Sinclair Lewis. In this period, along with the novels on business, social thought flourished, analyzing the economic processes in society. In this respect, the project intends to explore mainly Sumner and Veblen and locate business and businessmen in their social theories. The research aims to answer and raise further debates about the following questions: How does the image of business and businessmen change in fiction and social thought of the period? How do the fiction and social thought on business interact throughout the period? What is the relationship between social prominence and wealth in the works of thinkers and selected novels?

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss.

## **Marleen Schulte (Germany)**

Class of 2012



Marleen Schulte earned her Magister degree with honors in European and Bilingual Education from the University of Education Freiburg. There she also completed a certification as writing consultant and subsequently worked at the college's writing center consulting students in creative and academic writing as well as offering workshops. While earning her degree, she completed internships at renowned international schools in China, the U.K., and the United States. Schulte was a Socrates/Erasmus stipendiary representing Germany at the 2005 international education conference in Madrid, "Borders, Mobilities, Identities: European Educational Action." She helped her university host the event the following year.

She was also an honor student at Utah Valley University as well as at the University of Michigan. At Michigan she participated in the New England Literature Program (NELP), which provided her with a comprehensive understanding of New England's literary tradition through experiential learning directly within and about the region's landscape and culture. At NELP she also had the opportunity to meet one of the authors whose works are the subject of her dissertation.

In 2009 Marleen Schulte started her doctoral studies at the HCA. Her dissertation "White Trash on Puritan Soil: Constructing the North East Through its Contemporary Realist Fiction," analyzes the works of Richard Russo, Elizabeth Strout, Cathy Pelletier, Carolyn Chute, and Ernest Hebert. In her work she studies the sense of place and a shift in the region's perceived borders. Further, she analyzes how certain puritan and transcendental ideals, such as self-reliance, are prevalent still, whereas the perception and depiction of other concepts, for example social decline, have drastically changed.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Günter Leypoldt.

## **Stephen Urich (USA)**

Class of 2012

Stephen Urich grew up in the Washington, D.C., area. He graduated from St. John's College with a bachelor in Liberal Arts. He then began working as an analyst on several projects for United States governmental agencies such as The United States Federal Emergency Management Agency and the Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board. During this period he earned an MBA at Virginia Tech. Later while working in Brussels, he graduated Magna Cum Laude from the Centre Européen de Recherches Internationales et Stratégiques with a master's in International Politics. His thesis explored the state of North American integration.

Since finishing that program he has worked at United States European Command in Stuttgart.

His dissertation titled "Delegation of Power as a Political Tool of the United States Congress" intends to explore the United States Congress' delegation of authority and decision-making power to the executive branch of the government.

Supervisor: Dr. habil. Martin Thunert.



## **Stefanie Weymann (Germany)**

Class of 2012

Stefanie Weymann studied English and American Studies as well as Modern German Literature at the University of Freiburg, from where she graduated in 2006 with a B.A. In 2007, she continued her studies at King's College London as a student of English. Stefanie completed her M.A. degree in 2008 with a thesis on memory and oblivion in Samuel Beckett's *Molloy*, *Malone Dies* and *The Unnamable*, before joining the HCA in 2009 with a dissertation project tentatively entitled "Performing Space: The City in Contemporary American Literature."



Although largely considered an illegible text, the city in postmodern literature is still read by many as a metaphor or symbol that distinctly informs the narrative. In her dissertation project, Stefanie Weymann moves away from this interpretation and focuses instead on the various modes of producing postmodern urban space in literature. Taking as a vantage point the diverse ways in which fictional characters experience urban space sensually – in

seeing, hearing, or dreaming the city – the dissertation approaches the city in literature as above all the product of the spatial practices of its inhabitants. The city thus practiced is then not only a text, but also the result of a performative enactment: a performance of fictional space. How, then, do contemporary writers practice the city? What do these cities look like? Why are spatial practices so important for an understanding of urban space in literature as well as everyday life? To answer these questions, this project brings together sociological theories of urban space and the fictional cities of writers such as Don DeLillo, E. L. Doctorow, Siri Hustvedt, Jonathan Lethem and John Wray, among others.

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss

## Completed Ph.D.s

### Mohamed Metawe (Egypt)

Class of 2011

Mohamed Metawe, born in 1979 in Dametta, Egypt, is an assistant lecturer at Cairo University at the Faculty of Economics and Political Science. He received his M.A. in Political Science and International Relations from Cairo University in 2005. He wrote his M.A. thesis on the effects of the Eastern enlargement of the E.U. on the European security and defense policy. After receiving his M.A., Mohamed Metawe worked for the National Democratic Party for two years and was an instructor at Cairo University. On several occasions, he attended conferences in the U.S., France, Germany, Belgium, Denmark, and Lebanon.



His Ph.D. dissertation is entitled "The Middle East in Transatlantic Politics: 2003-2009." The key question of the project is why European and American policies toward Middle Eastern issues converge and diverge despite their agreement on common goals. The thesis has two main arguments: that transatlantic differences concerning the Middle East manifest themselves in details but not in the grand design of policies, and that transatlantic convergences regarding the Middle East make the policies of the transatlantic partners more coherent. The thesis explains the reasons for the divergences and convergences in American and European policies regarding the Middle East by reviewing some of the theoretical perspectives that have been employed to analyze and explain the differences and agreements between the transatlantic partners. It also explores the points of convergence and divergence in the American and European strategies and priorities toward the Middle East. By focusing on a small number of case studies, e.g. Iraq, Iran, and the Palestinian-Israeli peace process, the thesis analyzes the Middle East point of view regarding transatlantic convergences and divergences. In addition, Mohamed Metawe conducted interviews with experts (academics, politicians, diplomats, and journalists) in Egypt to explore their points of view with respect to the transatlantic policies in the Middle East. He successfully defended his dissertation under the supervision of Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker and Dr. habil. Martin Thunert and returned to the University of Cairo afterwards.

## Awarding of the Rolf Kentner Prize



Awarding of the Rolf Kentner Prize: Prof. Detlef Junker, Dr. Frank Usbeck, and Rolf Kentner

Since 2006, when the HCA established its Ph.D. in American Studies Program, nearly two dozen aspiring scholars from 11 different countries have decided to pursue their doctorate in this field at Germany's oldest university. On October 13, in front of a big audience in the HCA's splendidly decorated Atrium, another four young scholars, the Ph.D. Class of 2014, officially started their doctoral training: Michael Drescher (Germany), Axel Kaiser (Chile), Styles Sass (USA), and Kathleen Schöberl (USA). In his welcome remarks, Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker introduced all four of them as well as the new MAS Class of 2013, drawing a big round of applause. Prof. Junker also congratulated another successful Ph.D. candidate – Mohamed Metawe – on completing his dissertation; he was offered a position at Cairo University almost immediately. Prof. Junker then provided a brief sketch of how the HCA's Ph.D. program has evolved from a small group of ambitious researchers to one of Germany's most international and interdisciplinary doctoral programs that attracts students worldwide.

The main part of the evening, however, was reserved for the awarding of the Rolf-Kentner Prize. Sponsored by one of the HCA's most active benefactors, Rolf Kentner, chairman of the Schurman

Society for American History, the award recognized for the second time an outstanding and yet unpublished dissertation in the field of American Studies completed at a German university.

This year's recipient was Dr. Frank Usbeck from Leipzig University. After a short introduction by Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg, Frank Usbeck came to the lectern to deliver his keynote address "Tribe, Nation, Volksgemeinschaft: German Indianthiasm and the Construction of National (Socialist) Identity." Excerpting from his prize-winning dissertation, he presented some of the key arguments of his work, which looks at the enthusiasm that developed for Native American motifs in the Third Reich. Usbeck argued that National Socialist ideology drew on Indian imagery in order to help construct and solidify a specific national identity. According to Usbeck, the Nazis went so far as to claim not only historical parallels but also biological ties and cultural relationships between Germans and Indians. Instructive, entertaining, and provocative, Usbeck's talk garnered much applause and sparked a lively discussion. The evening ended with a reception in the HCA's Bel Etage, where the prize-winner, the benefactor, and a large audience continued their discussion.

### **A Transcultural Atlantic: Constructing Communities in a Global Context**

This multidisciplinary and multinational research project (current members hail from the United States, the Netherlands, Poland, Italy, and Germany) explores the Transcultural Atlantic as a realm of crosscultural interaction from the period of the late eighteenth-century Atlantic revolutions to the end of the Cold War and beyond. More precisely, it investigates various processes of transatlantic networking, community-building, and dissent in the realms of business, academia, the media, popular culture, government, law, and the military. The project sheds new light on the men and women who shaped cultures of transatlantic exchange and cooperation; on the transfer and adaptation of ideas and values across the Atlantic; and on the changing nature of the Atlantic space in an increasingly globalized world. Taking up this approach not only allows us to resituate discourses about the “West” within a larger global framework; at the same time, it will place a greater and necessary emphasis on the contingent, pluralist, and protean nature of transatlantic cultures itself. Because it considers the making of the Atlantic world over a broad span of time, the project will trace changes in the culture of different, sometimes competing communities in the Atlantic realm – to highlight continuities and ruptures; to show the effects of increased flows of goods, services, information, ideas, and identities; and to reassess the impact of major historical developments across the centuries.

Our research endeavor is a cross-disciplinary undertaking, combining the insights of political science, history, cultural studies, literature, and geography. We do not treat culture or society or

politics in a vacuum but examine how they influenced each other through ideas, institutions, and practices. Transnational communities have never been crafted solely and primarily by statesmen and diplomats. Rather, we hypothesize that they grow out of socially constructed values, customs, and symbols as well as the ways in which these were disseminated, interpreted, and adapted in the Atlantic world. To examine these culture flows, our project rejects the traditional notion of cultures as holistic entities and embraces a more recent definition that conceives of cultures as highly interdependent and permeable. Transculturality emphasizes the plurality of existing societal designs and ways of life in the Atlantic realm, highlighting their transnational contours.

The most important project activities in 2010-11 were the ERP workshops “Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World – Past, Present and Future,” held at the HCA December 3-4 2010 (see pages ??-??); “Energy Policy and Energy Security – Transatlantic Perspectives,” held at the HCA May 27-28, 2011, and “Zeitenwende 9/11 Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach,” held at the HCA September 9-11, 2011. This project is funded by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology and the Global Networks Program of Heidelberg University.

### **African-American History: National and Transnational Vistas**

In 2008, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies joined a research initiative with the German Historical Institute, Washington D.C. and Vassar

College (Poughkeepsie, NY) on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany."

Initiated by Professor Maria Höhn (Vassar) and Dr. Martin Klimke (GHI Washington/HCA), this research project and digital archive ([www.aacvr-germany.org](http://www.aacvr-germany.org)) explores the connection between the establishment of American military bases abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the U.S. It investigates the role African American GIs played in carrying the demands of the civil rights movement abroad beginning with World War II.

In July 2009, the project was awarded the Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award by the prestigious civil rights organization NAACP (the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) at its Centennial Convention in New York City. As the NAACP explained: "By giving voice to their experience and to that of the people who interacted with them over civil rights demands and racial discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic, Höhn and Klimke are preserving and expanding the history of African American civil rights movement beyond the boundaries of the U.S."

As part of this research initiative, an exhibition on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany," including more than 50 black and white photographs as well as other exhibition samples, is currently shown in both Germany and the United States. By illustrating the untold story of African American GIs and the transnational implications of the civil rights movement, the exhibit aims at advancing a more nuanced and sophisticated sense of how America's struggle for democracy reverberated across the globe.

The exhibition has already been shown in Ramstein, Berlin, Munich, Mainz, Augsburg, Tübingen,

and Hamburg as well as in Washington, D.C., Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Berkeley, Calif., Oxford, Miss., San Francisco, Athens, Ga., Chapel Hill, N.C., and London, among others. The accompanying book "A Breath of Freedom: The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany" by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke was published by Palgrave Macmillan in October 2010.

For further information on the project, the digital archive and the exhibition, please visit: [www.aacvr-germany.org](http://www.aacvr-germany.org)

For further information on the project's publication, please see: [www.breathoffreedom.org](http://www.breathoffreedom.org)

### **The Nuclear Crisis: Cold War Cultures and the Politics of Peace and Security 1975-1990**

On December 12, 1979, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) implemented the so-called Double-Track Decision: In case arms control negotiations with the Soviet Union failed, the West would station intermediate nuclear forces to provide a counterweight to the new Soviet SS-20 missiles.

This momentous decision, alongside the almost simultaneous Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, directly affected international politics as well as domestic developments in Europe and North America. The world moved from an era of reduced tension to a newly heightened East-West confrontation during the „Second Cold War.“

East-West tensions and the threat of nuclear war provoked sustained political protest. This was further augmented by domestic political turmoil, which in Western societies was heightened by the



arrival of a new brand of Western leaders such as Margaret Thatcher, Ronald Reagan, and Helmut Kohl. The early 1980s thus saw the biggest protest mobilization of the Cold War.

This research project seeks to establish a transnational history of this “Nuclear Crisis,” which engulfed both Western Europe and North America, yet transcended the European and global East/West divide as well. The “Nuclear Crisis” explores this discourse from three distinct but interrelated angles:

(1) It looks at the diplomatic, political, and strategic debate surrounding the nuclear armament issue. Only recently have historians started to look at this most salient political issue of the 1970s and 1980s. “Traditional” actors such as the political, diplomatic, and military elites carried this debate forward. Yet “anti-establishment” forces as well as other domestic and transnational actors, such as the churches and intellectuals, were equally important.

(2) By merging an “establishment” perspective with an analysis of protest cultures, this project aims to transcend the narrow boundaries of traditional diplomatic history: It seeks to bring non-state actors, intellectual discourses, and the role of culture into the study of international relations. It also looks at manifestations of “nuclear” death in popular culture, as well as in “high art,” including—but not limited to—music, film, and novels.

(3) The project transcends the traditional East-West divide in postwar European history in a number of ways: it explores the “nuclear crisis” on both sides of the Iron Curtain; it looks at the connections between establishment and anti-establishment forces across national borders; it places them in a transatlantic and pan-European setting

(one that is potentially global, given the impact of nuclear testing in the South Pacific); and it asks how and to what extent people envisioned themselves as part of larger transnational communities and spaces.

The accompanying digital archive has three main goals: First, it gathers and preserves materials on this most important chapter of transatlantic and European history. Second, it makes these materials available worldwide and free of charge to scholars and teachers. Third, it fosters the growth of a community of scholars, teachers, and students engaged in teaching and learning about the nuclear crisis of the 1980s; <http://www.nuclearcrisis.org/> “Nuclear Crisis” is a collaborative project by the German Historical Institute (GHI), Washington, D.C.; Institute for Contemporary History (IfZ), Munich-Berlin; Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA), Heidelberg University; and the History Department, University of Augsburg. It is directed by Philipp Gassert, University of Augsburg, Germany, Martin Klimke, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. / Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg University and Wilfried Mausbach, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg University. In cooperation with: Archive Green Memory (Archiv Grünes Gedächtnis), Berlin; Das Bundesarchiv, Koblenz; International Center for Protest Research (ICP); and Volda University College, Volda, Norway.

### **Sustainable Governance Indicators 2011: Regional Coordination – United States, Canada, Chile and Mexico**

HCA faculty member Dr. Martin Thunert is regional coordinator for the OECD member states in the Americas (Canada, Chile, Mexico, United States) of an ongoing international and comparative re-

search project, which is conducted and sponsored by the Bertelsmann Foundation in Gütersloh – the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI). The SGI project was launched in 2006-07 – at the time under the heading “Bertelsmann Reform Index” – and published its first edition of results in the spring of 2009. The first edition of the Sustainable Governance Indicators 2009 was based on a two-year study period from 2005 to 2007. The second SGI round for the observation period 2008-2010 was launched in late 2009 and the results of Sustainable Governance Indicators 2011 were published on March 31, 2011 (see below).

#### Project Mission and Project Description

The SGI analyze and compare the need for reform in 31 member countries of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), as well as their ability to respond to current social and political challenges. The project is designed to create a comprehensive data pool on government-related activities in the world’s developed market democracies – among them the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico. In addition, it uses international comparisons to provide evidence-based input for reform-related public discourse taking place in these countries.

Using qualitative and quantitative data, the SGI measure the current need for political, economic, and social reform in 31 OECD member states. At the same time, they examine to what extent these countries’ governments are able to tackle pressing problems and implement effective solutions. The SGI thus make use of a multi-dimensional approach that goes beyond the informational impact supplied by current rankings and indexes.

Most indexes and rankings that assess market democracies usually limit themselves to individual policy fields (such as economic policy, education, or the environment) or to examining governmental performance based on abstract concepts such

as organizational structures and procedures. Until now, there has been no index that combines both aspects – a gap that the Sustainable Governance Indicators have been explicitly designed to fill.

The SGI evaluate the extent to which OECD member states are in a position, given changing domestic and international conditions, to implement the measures necessary for ensuring their future viability. By measuring the need for reform along with the effectiveness of initiatives that have already been implemented, the SGI want to identify the best policy solutions for promoting democracy and a market economy. SGI findings are based on quantitative data from international organizations, supplemented by evaluations provided by renowned country experts.

#### Conceptual underpinnings

The SGI identify the need for reform in 31 OECD member nations by comparing their performance in 13 policy areas (outputs and/or outcomes), a process meant to ensure political nonpartisanship. In order to assess the quality of the nations’ reform management, the SGI focus on the most important political actor – the government – by examining its organizational structures and its ability to implement policy-related strategies. At the same time, the SGI do not assume that observed political outcomes derive solely from current government efforts. They do, however, assume that national policymakers are capable of effective leadership and that their chances of success stem from the executive branch’s strategic capabilities, meaning that the more able a government is to take strategic action, the better its chances are of successfully implementing reform – regardless of the actual reforms in question. The SGI’s objective is to shed light on those strengths and weaknesses within the governance process that have resulted in each nation’s current state of affairs.

## How the SGI is structured

On the basis of 65 qualitative and 82 quantitative indicators, the SGI analyze and compare the need for reform in 31 OECD member countries, as well as their ability to respond to current social and political challenges. The review period of SGI 2011 ranges from May 2008 to April 2010, displaying the performance of developed nations amid the global financial turmoil and economic crisis. The SGI assess sustainable governance along two pillars: a Status Index and a Management Index.

The Status Index measures key outputs and outcomes in the political, business and social arenas. The Management Index evaluates the government's ability to create change. Both indexes are highly correlated. The Status Index shows where the need for reform is greatest. The Management Index identifies how successful policymakers have been in implementing reforms. A key assumption is that, over the medium term, positive values in the Management Index will also lead to positive values in the Status Index.

## The Status Index

The Status Index summarizes each democracy's development status, meaning to what extent citizens participate in the political process and the degree to which each country guarantees basic rights and freedoms. Based on this, quantitative measurements are carried out in 13 political and economic policy areas: employment, business, taxes, budgets and finance, health, social cohesion, families, pensions, security, integration, environment, research, and education. These fields have been selected since they provide key answers to four challenges currently facing all OECD member nations: economic globalization, demographic change, new security challenges, and ever-scarcer resources.

## The Management Index

The Management Index examines government performance from two vantage points. Executive Capacity analyzes a government's organizational structures and processes in the categories of governance capabilities, efficient use of resources, international cooperation, and capacity for self-reform. The second dimension, Executive Accountability, looks at how the government interacts with external state and non-state actors (parliament, political parties, trade associations, and the media) and measures to what extent these actors positively influence the executive branch – and how.

## Calculating the SGI

Current political, economic, and social developments in 31 OECD member states can be quantitatively assessed through a range of data made available to the public by a number of independent institutions like the OECD itself, the World Bank, or the International Labour Organization. The SGI use these data in the Status Index directly as part of its indicators and indirectly as background information in the three expert reports prepared for each country.

## Country Specialists and Regional Coordinators

In all, for SGI 2011, 62 country experts assessed, for the Status Index, the current performance in each of the 15 policy fields and, for the Management Index, the internal processes taking place within governance bodies and their interactions with external actors. The expert reports are based on a catalogue of questions and standardized responses which are answered on a scale of 1 to 10. In addition, two country specialists – in collaboration with the regional coordinator – provide a detailed country report. SGI 2011 country specialists for the United States were Prof. Dr. Andreas Falke, University of Erlangen-Nürnberg, and Prof. Dr. Paul J. Quirk, University of British Columbia,

Vancouver. The findings of these country experts are edited and consolidated by seven regional coordinators and converted into 31 synopses reports, with the regional coordinators comparing the assigned scores among countries and regions. Finally, the results of each country team are vetted by the SGI Board, which is the governing body of the SGI project, made up of leading international specialists, before the individual points are tallied into the separate rankings for the Status Index and Management Index. This multi-tier assessment process is meant to ensure the greatest possible level of objectivity.

The role of the regional coordinator for the Americas (Canada, Chile, Mexico, and the United States) has been to edit, amend, and consolidate expert assessments written by eight recognized country specialists — two for each country, representing at least two academic disciplines (e.g., Economics and Political Science) or two nationalities, including the subject nation. The end results are four separate country reports of 30 pages each on reform capacities of the United States, Canada, Chile, and Mexico incorporating quantitative data interpreted through the lenses of the qualitative expert assessments.

**Key Findings and Current Status of the Project**  
The Sustainable Governance Indicators 2011 were released on March 31, 2011, the second major publication of data that builds on the successful and widely acknowledged first release in 2009. The

SGI 2011 release was accompanied by a comprehensive overhaul of the project's website at <http://www.sgi-network.org>. The entire data, rankings, and sub-rankings for each policy area as well as the country reports are accessible online free of charge. Based on highly interactive functionality, the SGI website offers users easy access to every level of information including a short version of key findings. For a direct link to the U.S. country data and report go to

[http://www.sgi-network.org/index.php?page=countries\\_keyfindings&country=USA](http://www.sgi-network.org/index.php?page=countries_keyfindings&country=USA).

The USA country report written by Martin Thunert, Andreas Falke and Paul Quirk can be downloaded at

[http://www.sgi-network.org/pdf/SGI11\\_USA.pdf](http://www.sgi-network.org/pdf/SGI11_USA.pdf).

The key findings for the United States were on balance positive compared to the results of SGI 2009. In the Status Index the United States moved up to rank 13 of 31 OECD countries (+4 ranks relative to SGI 2009). At rank 7 in the Management Index, management performance in the USA has also improved (+2 ranks relative to SGI 2009). The full indicator scores for the United States can be accessed and downloaded at

[http://www.sgi-network.org/index.php?page=scores\\_countries&country=USA](http://www.sgi-network.org/index.php?page=scores_countries&country=USA).

## Other Projects

### **Mediated and Aesthetic Presentations of the Teachings of Christian-Oriented *Erlebnisgesellschaften* in the United States**

Led by Professors Manfred Berg and Inken Prohl and financed by the German Research Foundation (Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft), this interdisciplinary project explores the ways postmodern Christian-oriented organizations attract and bind their members.

The three interlinked research projects utilize methods drawn from the economics of religion, material religion, and religious aesthetics to examine practice and visual culture using three different case studies. Dr. Anthony Santoro is examining the Raider Nation, the body of fans dedicated to the NFL's Oakland Raiders, analyzing the ways the fan base functions and conceives of itself as a kind of congregation. Dr. Katja Rakow is examining megachurches in the United States, and Sebastian Emling, M.A., is examining creationist theme parks. These three case studies all analyze the use of verbal and non-verbal carriers of meaning to show how these various groups position and brand themselves in the contemporary religious economy, as well as how they articulate an assumed transcendental and communicate its relevance to their members. We are investigating religious traditions, organizations, and communities to explore the questions raised by the way the bilateral use and incorporation of sensory image data, material artifact creation and practice help the organization communicate to its members and help the members "make sense of it all." Each project is driven in part by extensive field research; in all three projects, this fieldwork consists primarily of multi-stage participant observation. In line with recent scholarship on religion, we

treat the programs offered by or central to these organizations as goods created, promoted, branded, and consumed just as any other market commodity. In this, we align ourselves with and draw upon recent developments in studies of the economics of religion. This approach allows us to locate our studies within the historical "market-place of religion" in the United States while allowing us to refine the concepts associated with this metaphoric explanatory model based on current research. By following this line of analysis, the project aligns itself with and will further develop studies of material religion, and will also contribute to studies of the aesthetics of religion in contemporary America. Preliminary findings from all three projects have been presented at various major international conferences and are being refined and readied for publication.

### **Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Study Approach to Contemporary American Fiction**

This project was initiated at the English department of Heidelberg University with Professors Günter Leypoldt and Dietmar Schloss in cooperation with the HCA. Funded by Heidelberg University's "Innovationsfonds FRONTIER," it explores America's fascination with violence and especially the depictions of violence pervading American cultural and literary history. The project employs a novel theoretical approach which aims at analyzing American society and its cultural products from the perspective of European theories of modernization and civilization. The first part of the broader project, which is still in its early stages, is devoted to the analysis of depictions of violence in contemporary American novels. HCA associates Hannes Nagl and Katja Rostetter are part of

this endeavour, working on novels by Bret Easton Ellis and Cormac McCarthy respectively. They are joined by Joel Holtzem (English department), who focuses on "The Problem of Recognition in the Contemporary American Novel."

In the novels of numerous contemporary U.S. authors such as DonDeLillo, Toni Morrison, Bret Easton Ellis, Chuck Palahniuk, or Cormac McCarthy, physical violence is not only ubiquitous, but often also associated with social analyses exploring the impacts of modernization processes in U.S. society. While some authors interpret violence as a symptom of a specifically American process of modernization, which is fragmented and incomplete, others see it as a way of escaping a postmodern hypercivilization. Both of these perspectives share a renewed interest in the – often hidden – constraints the individual is subjected to in post-industrial media- and consumer societies. The project aims at making this socio-analytical impulse of the novels transparent by drawing on European theories of modernization and civilization, which can be found in the works of social

theorists such as Max Weber, Michel Foucault, or Norbert Elias. Elias theory of civilization, so far only very rarely applied to the American context, is especially interesting in this respect: Elias' idea of a 'civilizing process', which combines observations at the macro-level (the development of a monopoly of violence and of dense social and economic interdependencies) and on the micro level (the development of a specific 'civilized' habitus) – seems to offer a fruitful way to analyze the 'sociology' found in the respective novels. At the same time, Elias' writings on the sociology of sport and leisure contribute to an aesthetic perspective on violence, as they offer an approach to explain the fascination with violence for a 'civilized' readership.

In combining literary criticism and social theory, the project seeks to offer new ways of understanding American democracy which go beyond the idea of "American exceptionalism" without disregarding the peculiarities of the American modernization and civilization process.



Participants, Organizers, and Contributors of the HCA Spring Academy 2011

Back (l. to r.): The daughter of the nightwatchman, Laura Schelenz, Patrick Roberts, Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Sharon Adams, Elisabeth Engel, Christian Wilbers, Jennifer Rodgers, Maarten van Gageldonk, Katie McGettigan, Nina Vollenbröcker, Annessa Stagner, Eleonora Rohland, Melanie Gish; front (l. to. r.) Anja Milde, Caroline Morris, Barbara Antoniazzi, Christine Schnaithmann, Kate Lemay, Lisa Gill, Kshipra Uke, Julia Lichtenstein, Maciej Maslowski, Natalie Deibel, Matt Kohlstedt

### The Conference

The HCA Spring Academy on American History, Culture, and Politics is a one-week interdisciplinary conference for doctoral students from all over the world. In 2011, it took place from March 21 to March 25 and, again, turned out to be a big success. "There was never a problem starting a discussion but rather closing one," said Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, a senior lecturer at Heidelberg University's English Department and one of the two principal facilitators of the conference. She is enthusiastic about having the opportunity to learn about cutting edge research in the field of Ameri-

can Studies. Among the participants, Kate Lemay praised the important connections the attendees could make; Christian Wilbers thought the choice of people was excellent; and Maciej Maslowski ultimately conquered his fears with regard to omniscient historians.

### Support

One of the world's largest producers of agricultural and consumer equipment, the John Deere Corporation has graciously been a longtime supporter of the HCA Spring Academy. John Deere operates one of its major tractor-production factories in the



neighboring city of Mannheim. Since 2005, the John Deere European Headquarters has offered generous financial support for the conference. John Deere also invited the participants to visit the Mannheim factory and learn more about the company and its work.

### Spring Academy 2011 Report

After a Sunday night informal dinner at the Bier Brezel, the eighth HCA Spring Academy (SpAc) commenced on Monday, March 21, with a short address by HCA Founding Director Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker. He provided a brief overview of Heidelberg University's 625-year history and wished the participants an interesting and enriching time. He especially thanked the John Deere Corporation and Dr. Oliver Neumann, the company's Public Relations Manager for Europe, Northern Africa, Near & Middle East, for their continuing support of the conference, as well as Herbert A. Jung, who sponsored two of the SpAc's participants. Next, HCA Executive Director and *Mr. Spring Academy*, Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, introduced the HCA, its academic programs, major research areas, and public events. Over a glass of champagne or orange juice, participants had the opportunity to mingle some more before proceedings started in earnest.

In keeping with tradition, the academic part of the conference opened with an introductory workshop on "What is/are American Studies?" held by *Ms. Spring Academy*, Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung. She is also co-director of the international e-learning project *American Cultural Studies Onweb*, founding co-editor of the journal *Atlantic Studies* and President of MESEA, the Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas. For Dr. Fischer-Hornung, the Spring Academy is "the academic high point" of her year. She participated in it for the sixth time and, long ago, became a

leading figure. In her workshop she addressed the problem of singularity and plurality of American Studies, as the title of her workshop indicates. Which disciplines belong to the field of American Studies? Directly connected to this question is the issue of methodology: should American Studies develop its/their own methodology or combine approaches from other fields? *Ms. Spring Academy* also addressed the terminology of American Studies. Since America can be understood as a whole continent, it is not accurate to call the teaching of the United States (and maybe Canada) American Studies. With the participants of this year's Spring Academy she debated education as a market and political influence on education – especially regarding the awarding of scholarships. As in former years, the workshop triggered serious interest and served as a superb introduction to the week.

The very first panel of the conference, "(Trans) National Traces of Trauma and War," was chaired by Dr. Martin Thunert. Jetlag notwithstanding, Anessa Stagner surmounted the challenge of opening the conference as first speaker. She is a doctoral student at the University of California, Irvine, and has already participated in other renowned conferences. Her dissertation project is concerned with "U.S. Shell Shock in International Perspective, 1915-1940." Stagner analyzes the history of shell shock in the United States and contextualizes it as a broader, global experience felt by soldiers and nations. She especially concentrates on the ill-defined phrase "shell shock" and investigates both European and American perspectives. In her presentation, she addressed the issue that shell shock is a disease that cannot be seen physically and therefore was often treated falsely. She also talked about the inability of the shell shocked soldier to take care of his family as a consequence of insufficient treatment. In the discussion, the group debated the problem of shell shock weakening the



masculinity of the soldier since so-called hysteria had been a disease connected solely with women.

The second speaker of the day was Jennifer Rodgers, a Ph.D. student at the University of Pennsylvania, who is writing her dissertation on the International Tracing Service and transatlantic politics of remembrance in the Cold War Era. She was lead researcher on two projects at the Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. and also did research for the Justice Department's Office of Special Investigations as well as for the Presidential Advisory Commission on Holocaust Assets. Currently, she is a doctoral fellow at the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. Her dissertation investigates "how the West instrumentalized the International Tracing Service (ITS), an Allied agency established during World War II to locate displaced people, and to promote and legitimize political and cultural agendas in the postwar era." She claims that during the Cold War, Germany used the documents from the Third Reich in order to handle its past, while the U.S. was mainly interested in proving the evilness of the Nazi Regime and the Soviet Union.

The second panel "Migration and Politics" was also chaired by Martin Thunert. Two very different, but equally stimulating presentations were given. The HCA was happy to host the first Indian participant in the history of the Spring Academy, Kshipra Uke. A Ph.D. student at Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, she has been participating enthusiastically in students' activities for human rights. In her dissertation project, "The Role of Hindu Diaspora in the U.S. in the Consolidation of Hindu Identity," she focuses on the changing and unchanging patterns of the Hindu diaspora in the U.S. and is mainly interested in their caste identity. In her presentation, she especially emphasized the discrimination that comes with the caste system.

In order to illustrate its enduring significance, Uke related how she created several profiles on *Shaa-di*, the internet forum for Indian marriages, combining different academic levels with different castes and genders. Results suggested that belonging to the upper class caste was more valuable than a higher education. "That is the beauty of caste," Uke ironically concluded.

Next, Christian Wilbers talked about transatlantic migration and the politics of belonging between 1920 and 1945. Wilbers, a Ph.D. student at the College of William and Mary, is currently working at the Amerikazentrum in Hamburg. In his project, he focuses on German post-World War I immigrants in the U.S. who returned to their home country right before the Second World War. He is interested in the push-and-pull-factors that drove German-Americans to remigrate to Germany at the height of the Nazi regime. In his presentation, Wilbers explained that he especially wanted to use letters by contemporary witnesses and is planning to concentrate mainly on case studies. "My dissertation focuses on the particular and peculiar case of eight German-Americans who had returned to Germany in the period between 1933 and 1941 and who were arrested as members of a sabotage mission named 'Operation Pastorius' in the summer of 1942, at the height of World War II." In the discussion, the group gave lots of research suggestions. *Ms. Spring Academy* even offered to open her own archive and provide private sources. *Mr. Spring Academy* could see two books in the project and opined that Wilbers would have to decide whether to write a dissertation or a bestseller.

The second day of this year's SpAc started with panel three, entitled "Voices of Southern Identity in Literature and Broadcasting," chaired by *Mr. Spring Academy*. Julia Lichtenstein, a Ph.D. candidate at the HCA, opened the proceedings. Her

dissertation project investigates how contemporary Southern authors constitute and perpetuate a distinctive Southern literary identity. In her presentation, she focused on the use of tropes and the construction of the Ultra-South as a space vs. a place, using Barry Hannah's *Yonder Stands Your Orphan* and *Hey Jack!* as well as Larry Brown's *Miracle of Catfish* to explicate her argument. Lichtenstein suggested that contemporary Southern authors "produce the space 'the South' and define it by using familiar Southern literary tropes as signifiers that need no further explication. They then can be used as a signifier but are exposed as void of significance. Stereotypically reproduced and mystified they have lost or changed their signified." This opened a debate on the definition of space and place, the representation of violence in Southern literature, and the 'Deep South' as profitable industry. "The South sells," but only because we are "watching the stereotypical South through a magnifying glass simultaneously fascinated and happy to be at a safe distance."

The next speaker was Caroline Morris, who is a Ph.D. candidate at the College of William and Mary. Her dissertation is concerned with the Richmond radio station WRVA, known as the "Voice of Virginia." She investigates "how the station's fence-sitting unintentionally opened up a space for those with the least amount of power – women, African Americans, rural migrants – to begin expressing and exploring their own understandings of social and racial norms." In her presentation, Morris illustrated how revolutionary the WRVA and the radio as such were. A poor family sitting in the kitchen could suddenly hear the president addressing them and a black man's voice could enter a white woman's bedroom. Those border crossings stirred up the segregation of class, race, and gender in Virginia. Morris also discussed the radio as modern technology and mass medium

vs. the Southern identity connected to rural and conservative tradition.

After the SpAc 2011 had dealt with Southern issues, an exciting panel on religion, politics and race followed. It was chaired by Erich Geldbach, a professor emeritus from Ruhr-University Bochum who has also taught at Eastern Baptist Seminary in Philadelphia, Harvard Divinity School Whitney College in Melbourne, and – most recently – at the HCA. The panel started off with Elisabeth Engel, a native Bavarian who completed her M.A. in Political Science, English Philology and Anglo-American History at the University of Cologne. Currently, she is a doctoral student in history at the JFK Institute of the Free University Berlin. At the SpAc 2011, she presented her dissertation project with the working title, "African American (Anti-)colonialism: The African Methodist Episcopal Church and Colonial Africa (1918-1939)," which analyzes African American missionary work in British West and South African colonies during the interwar period. She is mainly interested in the African Methodist Episcopal Church (A.M.E.) which "had emerged as a symbol of black emancipation in the U.S." In her talk, she discussed African American self-government in the colonies, the political intentions of the A.M.E., and its relationship to the broader missionary movement. The session continued with Shannen Dee Williams, a Ph.D. candidate in African American and United States History at Rutgers University, New Brunswick, and the recipient of the 2005 Tom W. Shick Award for Excellence in African-American History. She gave a presentation on her project, entitled "Subversive Habits: Black Nuns and the Struggle to Desegregate Catholic America after World War I." Since Williams herself is a Catholic African American, her dissertation arose out of personal experience. She argues that "black sisters are the lost prophets of American Catholicism and democracy. Though practically in-



Spring Academy Participants in Action (l. to r.): Jennifer Rodgers, Eleonora Rohland, Katie McGettigan, Sharon Adams, Christine Schnaithmann, Caroline Morris

visible in the scholarship on the African American freedom struggle and the Catholic Church, black nuns played critical, and oftentimes leading, roles in the fight for black recognition and rights in the U.S. Church." Next to annual reports of relevant institutions and secondary literature, Williams has collected 35 oral history interviews with current and former Catholic sisters and leading figures in the field of Catholic history in the United States.

The afternoon was reserved for Patrick Roberts' workshop on "Constitutionalism in America." Roberts, the Ghaemian Scholar-in-Residence for 2010-11 at the HCA, is working on a book titled *Disasters and the Democratic State: How Bur-eau-crats, Politicians, and the Public Prepare for the Unexpected*. His workshop dealt with the theoretical foundations of constitutional democracy. It raised the questions of why people would want to be citizens of such a system and how they can create, maintain, and, if necessary, change it. The first lively debate developed about the axiom of the "unbroken chain of equality." "Why do people talk about equality so often if it was self-evident?" asked Mischa Honeck, Ph.D. coordinator at the

HCA, rhetorically. To track the natural rights philosophy of the Declaration of Independence, the group read and analyzed the Gettysburg Address, Martin Luther King's "I have a dream" speech, the "Jefferson Draft" of the Declaration and some letters by Thomas Jefferson. The group especially concentrated on Jefferson as a contradictory figure and debated his efforts for democracy in contrast to his relationship to Sally Hemings and the system of slavery itself. "But, as it is, we have the wolf by the ear, and we can neither hold him, nor safely let him go. Justice is in one scale, and self-preservation in the other," Sharon Adams quoted Jefferson. The argument led to the examination of slavery as an economic necessity. *Mr. Spring Academy* pointed out that "to be created equal" did not necessarily imply enduring "equality" in every condition of life, which caused a philosophical debate on the natural state of man. In the end, *Ms. Spring Academy*, expressed her pleasant surprise to see a political scientist, talking – untypically for his field – in cultural context. "It turns out we have something in common," Patrick Roberts closed the session brightly.

In the evening, the group went to Mannheim to pay a visit to its sponsor John Deere, always a highlight of the Spring Academy week. At the plant, Dr. Oliver Neumann, Public Relations Manager for Europe, Africa, Near & Middle East, as well as the former Soviet republics, was happy to welcome this year's Spring Academy group. He introduced the group to the history and present operational areas of the company before fielding questions from the audience. After an exclusive factory tour, the evening drew to a close with a lovely reception.

*Ms. Spring Academy* chaired the fifth panel on "Performing and Perceiving the Body: Womanhood and Community in Literature and Culture" on Wednesday, March 23. Two speakers impressed

the group with their fascinating dissertation topics. First, Barbara Antoniazzi presented her project entitled "Wayward Femininity: Progressivism, Prostitution and Performance (1888-1917)." She received her M.A. in American Studies from the University of Venice Ca' Foscari and is currently a Ph.D. candidate at the JFK Institute of the Free University Berlin. In her presentation, she focused on the third part of her dissertation: the now forgotten "brothel plays" of the 1910s. Here, she is "particularly interested in the early work of Rachel Crothers and in prostitution plays where the medical professions play a crucial role." Antoniazzi familiarized the group with Crothers' play *Ourselves* (1913) and analyzed how it presents the plurality of the female world. With such excerpts from the play in mind, Antoniazzi discussed dramatic theo-



Participants of the Spring Academy 2011 Visit Its Sponsor John Deere in Mannheim

ry. Her project intriguingly combines modernization, immigration, and industrialism with the role of gender at the turn of the twentieth century.

"This is a way of speaking that takes such pure joy in its own openness and ardor that we begin to feel these people are discussing language itself." (Don DeLillo, *Names*, 52-53). This statement perfectly describes Maciej Maslowski's presentation on "Invisible Presence: Visibility, Embodiment and the Possibility of Community in Don DeLillo's Fiction." Maslowski is currently a third-year doctoral student at the University of Wrocław, Poland. In his presentation, he focused on the correspondence between language and the body in De Lillo's *The Names*. Maslowski discussed the demonstration of pain as an "indescribable experience" in language. Another important subject in his project is the possibility of community and the concept of togetherness, which he explores by employing the theoretical formulations developed by French philosopher Maurice Merleau-Ponty.

Panel six, entitled "Gender, Race and Ethnicity in Sports and Leisure," was chaired by Lisa Gill. A native of the Bronx, Gill holds a Ph.D. from the University of Maryland. Her area of study are African American History, Popular Culture, and Media Studies. She is currently a Fulbright Visiting Professor at the University of Regensburg. On this panel, Natalie Deibel gave a presentation on her project, "For Profit, Pleasure and Sport: Recreation, Culture, and Society in Early America, 1600-1750." Natalie Deibel is a Ph.D. candidate at George Washington University. At the moment, she is researching at the National Archives in London, Lambeth Palace, and the British Library. Her dissertation "explores both the practices and meanings of recreation in the fledgling North American colonies from 1600-1750." She concentrates on the colonies of New Netherland (later New York) and the Chesapeake

area. In her presentation, she first defined recreation in contrast to work, which is not as self-explaining as it seems since some activities like hunting fall into both categories. She gave three examples that she analyzed: gambling, gossiping, and drinking. At this state in her research, she argues that "over time, the emerging codes governing these activities changed the relationship between elite and popular culture in the Atlantic world, created new boundaries between the sexes, and contributed to an American colonial identity fraught with contradictions concerning ethnicity and, eventually, race."

On Wednesday afternoon, another highlight of the Spring Academy week gave the participants the chance to get to know Heidelberg better. On the Guided Tour, "Brückenaff und Kettenkalb," the group explored Heidelberg's Old Town. Dressed as the daughter of a fourteenth-century night-watchman, our guide took the group to the Old Bridge, the Market Square and the students' prison, while sharing legends about medieval Heidelberg.

Thursday started with panel seven on "Conditions and Scandals of Circulation and Publication in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries," chaired by *Ms. Spring Academy*. First, Katie McGettigan gave a brilliant presentation on "The Literary Marketplace in the Later Fiction of Herman Melville." McGettigan received her B.A., M.A. and M.St. at Oxford University and is currently a Ph.D. student at Keele University. In her dissertation, she analyzes Herman Melville's reaction to the rapidly-changing conditions of the mid-nineteenth century literary marketplace. She therefore decided to examine Melville's later fiction, focusing in her presentation on *The Confidence-Man* in connection to periodicals as part of the literary industry. With the group, she discussed consumerism, periodicals vs. novels, and Emily Dickinson's success with period-

icals in contrast to Herman Melville's reputation. Dr. Fischer-Hornung addressed the contextualization of the project and suggested an examination in post-colonial context. *The Confidence-Man* was first published by Grove Press, which also figured prominently in the following presentation by Maarten van Gageldonk. He had already focused on periodicals in his M.A. thesis in English and American Studies and continues this work as a doctoral candidate at Radboud University Nijmegen, analyzing the role of the publishing house and its magazine *Evergreen Review* as cultural mediator in both Europe and the United States. In his presentation, he concentrated on the 1960s and *Evergreen* as an avant-garde, boundaries-breaking phenomenon. Moreover, he included a theoretical debate of the rather new field of Periodical Studies – the question whether magazines mirror or shape (American) culture. The mirroring mechanism of studying periodicals, he contended, "has blinded us to much of their influence, turning active social shapers into passive barometers." A vigorous debate ensued on the impact of the provocative covers of *Evergreen Review*.

The third workshop of the SpAc 2011 was entitled "Visual Images of the Civil Rights Movement" and directed by Lisa Gill, who emphasized that the Civil Rights Movement did not – as commonly thought – start with Rosa Parks' act of civil disobedience. If we think of the Civil Rights Movement as a struggle for legal equal rights under the constitution, it started with *Plessy v. Ferguson* in 1896. Before the workshop began in earnest, Lisa Gill asked the group to take a closer look at the exhibition on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African-American GIs, and Germany," then on display at the HCA. Based on the book *A Breath of Freedom* by Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke the exhibition shows how African American GIs, enlisted in the U.S. occupation forces, experienced a feeling of freedom in post-

war Germany, which did not leave the civil rights movement unaffected. The main focus of the workshop was on visual images, including an interview with Kenneth Clark and Malcolm X, a statement by Robert F. Williams on self-defense, and footage of "The Great March on Washington." Dr. Gill also demonstrated the extent to which Malcolm X has become a visually deployed signifier in rap and hip hop music and beyond.

The final day of the conference started with a captivating panel on "Disaster: Memory and Memorials," chaired by Patrick Roberts. The first speaker was Eleonora Rohland who is a doctoral student at the Kulturwissenschaftliches Institut Essen (KWI). Her Ph.D. project, entitled "Hurricanes in New Orleans, 1722-2005: An Urban Biography of Disaster," is part of the KWI's interdisciplinary research program on "Climate & Culture." Rohland intends to analyze how disasters are remembered and whether these memories encourage learning and adaption to hazardous environments. In her presentation, she first familiarized the group with New Orleans' climate and geographical situation, as well as with its demographics regarding ethnicity and class. In both cases, New Orleans is marked by a "vulnerable geography." She then presented case studies of New Orleans hurricanes stretching from 1722 to 2005, utilizing Aleida Assmann's concept of memory in order to analyze how these events were and are remembered. She emphasized that "not only scientific knowledge shaped the image of hurricanes, religious worldviews played an important part in the ability of people to analyze and interpret the meaning of those calamitous events disrupting their lives." Finally, Kate Lemay presented her remarkable project, "Forgotten Memorials: The American Cemeteries in France from World War II." She is a Ph.D. candidate in American Art History and American Studies at Indiana University at Bloomington with a particular in-



terest in the way visual culture sustains the memory of war. In her presentation, Lemay focused on Epinal American Cemetery and its artistic design by Malvina Hoffman, claiming that “Hoffman created a narrative of heroic warfare, glorious death, and honored afterlife.” This representation of war was welcomed by the American Battle Monuments Commission (AMBC). Lemay argued that “instead of prioritizing an audience of the mothers of the fallen, the ABMC instead was arguing in visual terms for American global interests during the Cold War.” Thus, she maintains, “the cemeteries are in fact an aesthetic of forgetting.”

Panel nine on “Cultural and Symbolic Knowledge Acquisition through Architecture and Archeology” was once more chaired by *Ms. Spring Academy*. A Ph.D. candidate at Berlin’s Humboldt University and a Research and Teaching Assistant at the university’s Department of Cultural History and Theory, Christine Schnaithmann provided insight into her current research revolving around the relations between scientific management and modern architecture and design. Her dissertation project examines “The Knowledge Architecture of Office Work on the Basis of Frank Lloyd Wright’s Larkin Administration Building in Buffalo.” After a brief introduction to the office architecture of the 1920s, Schnaithmann focused on the combination of form and function in the Larkin Administration building, explaining how Wright tailored the design of this exceptional five-story building to the particular needs of the Larkin Company. The ensuing discussion touched upon cultural and social reflections in architecture as well as questions of gender with regard to the work arrangements of male and female office workers.

The next speaker on this panel was Matt Kohlstedt. He is currently in the American Studies Ph.D. pro-



Ms. Spring Academy 2011: Dr. Dorothea Fischer-Hornung

gram at George Washington University, where his general scholarly interests include transnational history, decolonization, and cultural and intellectual history. In his dissertation project “From Artifacts to People Facts: The Archeological Origins of Middle East Area Studies,” he endeavors to trace “the origins, content, and ramifications of interwar American academic interest in the Middle East, demonstrating the way(s) in which knowledge was utilized during the wartime and postwar expansion of the U.S. sphere of influence in the Middle East.” In his presentation, Kohlstedt familiarized the group with Edward Said’s concept of Orientalism and then turned to the case of Donald Wilbers, “a CIA agent who helped overthrow

the democratically elected Prime Minister of Iran in 1953, while using his role as author of a series of widely used textbooks on Iran as cover." Wilbers served as an example for the small group of authors who benefited from the fact that Americans knew nearly nothing about the Middle East at the outbreak of World War II. "For that reason," Kohlstedt observed, "anyone with any time spent in any part of the Middle East was looked at as an expert in all aspects of the entire region."

The tenth and last panel of the conference, entitled "Jaguars and Travelers: Space and Mobility in the American West," was again chaired by *Mr. Spring Academy*. The first speaker was Sharon Adams, a doctoral candidate at the Department of Geography and the Environment at the University of Texas at Austin. Her dissertation project with the working title, "Encountering El Tigre: Jaguars and People in the U.S.-Mexican Borderlands," examines how the relationships between humans and jaguars are constructed and shaped in the U.S.-Mexican border region. Adams applies different methodologies: she conducts traditional archival research, but also follows biologists and has already met her subject of study face to face. In her presentation, she focused on the case of Macho B., a *Panthera onca* who used to live in the wild and crossed the borderlands but recently died in captivity. She analyzed the perceptions of jaguars in American culture and contrasted the reaction to border-crossing jaguars with those to human migration. The latter was also the topic of the SpAc 2011's last speaker, Nina Vollenbröker. She holds a diploma in Architecture and a Masters in Architectural Theory from the Bartlett School of Architecture, University College, London. She is currently in the Ph.D. program at the Bartlett School of Architecture and has already worked in architectural practice. Her project, "Frontier, Rangeland, Overland Trail – The Nineteenth-Century American

West as site of Rootedness and Belonging" problematizes the ostensible dichotomy of rootedness and mobility. In her presentation, Vollenbröker discussed the concepts of home, place, the self, emplacement, and paths, as well as their role in the relationship between rootedness and mobility. The Q&A session discussed different forms of and reasons for mobility, including references to the Dust Bowl and the circumstances of military families.

The proceedings of the Spring Academy 2011 closed with a panel discussion on "Teaching American Studies," moderated by Wilfried Mausbach. Panelists Dorothea Fischer-Hornung, Lisa Gill and Patrick Roberts all related their peculiar experiences in teaching American Studies. Fischer-Hornung foregrounded her co-directing of the international e-learning project *American Cultural Studies Onweb*, observing that non-face-to-face interaction can prove to be advantageous for students who are not native speakers. Patrick Roberts and Lisa Gill shared their impressions of the differences between American and German students, which led to a lively discussion about reading assignments and ways to ensure that students come to class prepared. The group agreed that the most important thing about teaching is to decide what students should take away from each class.

The Spring Academy 2011, esteemed by all participants as a highly productive week of presentations and discussions, concluded with a farewell dinner at the HCA.



## Conferences

### **"Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World – Past, Present and Future," December 3-4, 2010, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

This was the second in a series of six workshops on different aspects of transatlantic history, society, and politics, which are related to the HCA's research project "A Transcultural Atlantic" (see page 105) and are underwritten by the Transatlantic Program of the Federal Republic of Germany with funds from the European Recovery Program (ERP) of the Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology, administered by the KfW Bankengruppe. The think tank workshop was convened by Martin Thurnert (HCA) with student assistance from Matthias Kutsch.

Nearly 30 experts and opinion leaders from academia, journalism, education, and especially from the think tank and foundation world participated in this two-day ERP Workshop. Next to governments, parliaments, and representatives of corporate interests, non-governmental study and discussion groups, think tanks, and foundations have become important players in the transatlantic world. Think tanks and foundations organize transatlantic dialogues and try to contribute to the preparation of the decision-making process of national governments as well as of trans- and supranational bodies in the Atlantic world. Thus, ERP Workshop II set out to scan these actors and their activities on both sides of the Atlantic as well as in different policy areas, to analyze their role in transatlantic relations, and evaluate some of their more recent contributions to transatlantic dialogue. The conference had three objectives: first to provide a thorough analysis of the role of think tanks and foundations on both sides of

the Atlantic; second to examine the role of think tanks, foundations, and related non-state actors in transatlantic relations past, present, and future; third, to discuss and evaluate actual contributions of selected think tanks and foundations on transatlantic, European, and American issues.

Session I on Friday morning, entitled "Divergence or Convergence - The Role of Think Tanks and Foundations on both Sides of the Atlantic" and chaired by Patrick Roberts (HCA Ghaemian Fellow), started with an overview of the U.S. think tank landscape by R. Kent Weaver (Georgetown University and Brookings Institution) from the perspective of the Brookings Institution, one of America's largest and most respected think tanks in Washington, D.C. As a contrast, Josef Braml (German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin) highlighted the main features of German "Denkfabriken/Think Tanks in Germany" in comparison to their U.S. counterparts.

Session II, chaired by HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker, addressed the issue of "How Think Tanks and Foundations Matter or Do not Matter on both Sides of the Atlantic" with two papers by Donald Abelson (University of Western Ontario, London, Ont.) on "Think Tanks and American Foreign Policy" and Monika Sus (University of Wroclaw) on "The Role of (Foreign Policy / EU) Think Tanks in Central and Eastern Europe."

In Session III, chaired by R. Kent Weaver (Georgetown University), "Speaking Truth to Power or Experiencing the Truth of Power?" Nicole Renvert (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik) and Anneke von Raggamby (Ecologic Institute, Berlin and Washington, D.C.) examined the role of non-state actors such as think tanks, foundations, and aca-

demic institutions in transatlantic relations. Renvert looked at "The Role of Corporate and Political Foundations in the Transatlantic World / in Transatlantic Relations," while von Raggamby shared the experiences of "Environmental Think Tanks in Europe and Germany" focusing on the transnational Ecologic Institute.

The keynote speaker of the workshop's public evening lecture, Steven Hill, who works as an author and a consultant in San Francisco, appeared in a double role: as a former member of the U.S. think tank New America Foundation and as the author of his recent book *Europe's Promise: Why the European Way is the Best Hope in an Insecure Age* (University of California Press 2010). His book was also the basis and the title of his lecture. After an introduction by Martin Thunert (HCA), Steven Hill's lecture generated a lively discussion on Europe's strengths and weaknesses from a transatlantic perspective. The first day of the workshop concluded with a reception.

The next morning, session IV brought more perspectives on think tanks and foundations in the transatlantic world. Chaired by Donald Abelson (University of Western Ontario), Stephan Scheuer (German Council on Foreign Relations, Berlin) explored the "Professionalization of Chinese International Relations Think Tank and Their View of the Transatlantic West," while Steven Hill shared his experiences as the former director of the New America Foundation's Political Reform Program as well as his thoughts on centrist and progressive think tanks in the United States. Finally, Wolfgang Tönnemann (Atlantic Academy, Rhineland-Palatinate, Kaiserslautern) analyzed the role of his organization in initiating expert dialogue and educating the public. After lunch, an open discussion on "The Future of Think Tanks and Foundations in the Transatlantic World," moderated by Martin Thu-

ner (HCA), included most conference speakers, HCA staff, and other experts.

### **"Energy Policy and Energy Security – Transatlantic Perspectives," May 27 and 28, 2011, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

Nearly 30 experts and opinion leaders from academia, journalism, education, energy, industry, and local businesses participated in the two-day ERP Workshop on "Energy Policy and Energy Security – Transatlantic Perspectives" at the HCA. This workshop was jointly convened by Karen Smith Stegen (KAEFER Professor of Renewable Energy and Environmental Politics at Jacobs University Bremen) and Martin Thunert (HCA) with student assistance by Rebecca Zimmermann. The speakers at the workshop came from the United States, Canada, Germany, from NATO headquarters in Brussels, and from a UK-based international energy research institute. Among the participants were students and young graduates from the U.S., Serbia, Azerbaijan, India, and Germany. The energy workshop was divided into several subject areas. These included, for example, relations with energy suppliers to Europe, like Russia and central Asian countries, and suppliers to the United States, like Canada; the role of NATO in energy security issues, and the generation of solar energy through the project DESERTEC in the Sahara. The workshop addressed the following questions and issues: What are the likely future approaches of the United States and Canada on the one hand, and Germany and Europe on the other, to energy policy in general and to energy security in particular. As both the U.S. and Europe are currently confronting similar energy and environmental dilemmas, such as increasing demand, decreasing indigenous production, fewer worldwide resources, the majority of which are owned by foreign governments, and

climate change caused by burning of fossil fuels for energy, they would benefit from converging strategies and transatlantic cooperation. But, despite some efforts to strengthen cooperation, such as the creation of the E.U.-U.S. Energy Council in November 2009, the differing priorities and interests of the two parties may pose challenges. It is these challenges that the workshop intended to explore.

After welcoming remarks by HCA Founding Director Detlef Junker, chair Karen Smith Stegen (Jacobs University Bremen) started the first session on "Leading Energy Challenges in the European Union and in North America" on Friday morning. John Millhone (Energy and Climate Program, Carnegie Center for International Peace, Washington, D.C.) gave a broad overview on "Energy Issues – What We've Learned and Where We Need to Try Harder" from an U.S. perspective. Frank Umbach (Centre for European Security Strategies, London and European Centre for Energy and Resource Security, Munich) added a European perspective on „Global Energy Challenges and the Implications for the EU's Energy Security Policies."

Session II was chaired by Michael Rühle from NATO Headquarters in Brussels and addressed "Implications of Fukushima: The Future of Different Energy Sources (Nuclear Energy, Fossil Fuels, Biofuels, etc.)" Severin Fischer (Stiftung Wissenschaft und Politik, Berlin) sketched the "The Future of E.U. Energy Policy between Targets, Roadmaps and Realities," whereas Jake Caldwell (Center for American Progress, Washington D.C.) focused on „The Energy Opportunity: The United States' Perspective". In Session III chair Frank Umbach (CESS, London and EUCERS, Munich) welcomed three speakers addressing transatlantic perspectives on Energy Security Concerns: Michael Rühle (NATO, Office of the General Secretary, Brussels) started

the conversation with a paper on "Energy Security: Can NATO Contribute to a Transatlantic Approach?" This was followed by Daniel Eisermann (Berlin Risk Institute, Berlin) on "Europe's Energy Security Debate – A Critical View." John Deni (Institute for Political Science, Heidelberg University) looked at "Evolving U.S. Perspectives on Energy Security."

After a break with light refreshments, the evening keynote on "New Energies, New Challenges" was delivered by Karen Smith Stegen (Bremen), followed by a reception.

The next day started off with a working breakfast at Backmulde Hotel to discuss joint projects and an edited volume with transatlantic perspectives on energy security and policy among active workshop participants. The ensuing fourth session was chaired by Sebastian Harnisch (Institute for Political Science at Heidelberg University) and looked at "Reliable Suppliers: Russia to Europe, Canada to the United States?" Julia Nanay (Senior Director, PFC Energy, Washington, D.C.) addressed the Europe-Russia-Central Asia energy link in her talk on "EU and Russia: Energy Risks and Energy Security." Two papers on the American-Canadian energy relationship concluded this panel. Tammy Nemeth (University of British Columbia) looked at "Continental Rift? Energy Security and the Apparent Divergence in Canada-U.S. Petroleum Policy," whereas Martin Thunert's (HCA) paper was entitled "Blessing or Curse? Canada/Alberta as an Energy Supplier to the United States."

The energy workshop concluded with a lunch keynote delivered by Thiemo Gropp, Co-Founder and Director of DESERTEC Foundation, Hamburg. The speaker and the discussant, Marianne Haug (University of Hohenheim, Stuttgart), were introduced by Severin Fischer (SWP, Berlin). The lunch key-

note, comment, and discussion revolved around "The Impact of Renewable Energy and DESERTEC on Energy Security." A final discussion among all workshop participants concluded the two-day event.

### **Conference "Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach," September 9-11, 2011, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies**

The HCA commemorated the tenth anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terror attacks in New York, Washington, D.C., and Shanksville, Pa. with a conference entitled "Zeitenwende 11. September? Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach" ("September 11 as a Turning Point? A Transatlantic Evaluation Ten Years Later"). It was organized by Simon Wendt (Frankfurt and Heidelberg), Till Karmann (ZEGK, Heidelberg), Wilfried Mausbach (HCA) and Martin Thunert (HCA) with the support of Martha Erhard (HCA). Once again, conference funding came from the German Federal Ministry of Economics and Technology via the European Recovery Program (ERP).

In the keynote speech on Friday evening, September 9, an attentive and grateful audience of about 700 people listened to Frank-Walter Steinmeier's remarks on his recollection of 9/11 from the inside perspective as former Head of the Federal Chancellery. One of his major concerns was to convey the atmosphere of real fear at the time in the Berlin corridors of power to an outside-government audience ten years later. The post 9/11 course of action taken by the German government, Steinmeier argued, can only be explained and understood in view of these very real sentiments of fear in a climate of uncertainty. It was already clear to him in 2001, he said, that the terror attacks on

9/11 meant a profound turning point for the American sense of security. Steinmeier, however, did not see the struggle against terrorism as the sole overarching priority for the next ten years. Other tasks, emanating e.g. from the chances and risks of the revolutions in the Arab world were at least equally important. In a lively Q&A, Steinmeier vehemently rejected the notion conveyed in the 9/11 commemorative issue of the German weekly *Der Spiegel* that Germany under Chancellor Gerhard Schröder offered its allies – especially the United States – German civilian and military support in Afghanistan, even if these allies had not asked for it in the first place.

The major part of the conference consisted of the input and discussion of ideas from mostly junior researchers with comments from more advanced scholars. Six panels discussed topics that had been of relevance in the ten years following the attacks on 9/11: Anti-Americanism and "Anti-Europeanism"; Religious Dialogues and Conflicts; Migration and Immigration Politics; Terrorism and the Media, American; German and "European" Foreign Policy; and Security Policy and Counter Terrorism. In each of the panels one paper focused on the United States, the other on Europe and/or Germany.

In his introduction, Simon Wendt (Frankfurt/Heidelberg) laid the analytical-conceptual basis for further discussion. He stressed that the perception of 9/11 as a turning point alone could have initiated change. Current research defined 9/11, in a world-political perspective, as a catalyst, Wendt argued. The catalyst function of 9/11 that was mentioned by Wendt in his introductory remarks was taken up by most of the speakers on the different panels. To view 9/11 as a catalytic event rather than a complete turning point in U.S. history became the leitmotiv of the conference.



Frank-Walter Steinmeier Speaking at the Neue Aula of the Ruperto Carola

In the first panel on “Anti-Americanism and ‘Anti-Europeanism,’” Till Karmann (Heidelberg), however, did not see 9/11 as a turning point, arguing that Anti-Americanism had existed in Germany since the Second World War and was deeply rooted in the German perception of the United States. Martin Thunert (Heidelberg) did see 9/11 as a catalyst of a perception of Europe that had its origins in the nineteenth century. Philipp Gassert (Augsburg) agreed to the suggestions of 9/11 being a catalyst and argued that the images of America and Europe were more telling for the “speaker” than the addressee.

In the second panel, “Religious Dialogues and Conflicts,” Mounir Azzaoui (Aachen) suggested that the answer to the question whether 9/11 was

a turning point was closely connected to who this question was posed to. In regard to the discourse on German TV about Islam, 9/11 was a turning point, as terrorism became a connecting factor in reports about Muslim life in Germany, as Tim Karis (Münster) argued. Inken Prohl (Heidelberg) warned that the depiction of 9/11 as a turning point could also be used for dramatization purposes.

In the panel on “Migration and Immigration Politics,” Dorothee Schneider (Urbana-Champaign) suggested that U.S. immigration policy did not change profoundly after 9/11. Sören Keil (Kent) stressed the difference between developments in immigration policy in the U.S. and Germany: Unlike in the U.S., there was no visible “securitization” in Germany after 9/11.

In the panel on "Terrorism and the Media," Eva-Maria Kiefer (Heidelberg) described 9/11 as a catalyst for a change in the depiction of terrorism in the media: technical developments met terroristic intentions, she argued. Wolfgang Frindte (Jena) offered some insights into his fascinating research about the influence of descriptions of terrorism in the media.

The importance of 9/11 for US foreign policy was addressed by John R. Deni (Heidelberg) in the panel on "American, German and 'European' Foreign Policy." Deni stressed the continuities in American foreign policy since the 1990s, again rejecting the notion of 9/11 as a complete turning point. Kai Oppermann (Köln) talked about 9/11 as being a catalyst for German and European foreign policy and underlined the difference between role perception and role anticipation. Gunther Hellmann (Frankfurt) warned that the question about a turning point as such could push the aspects suggesting a change towards the center of discussion more than it allowed for a balanced view.

In the panel on "Security Policy and Counter Terrorism," Robin Schröder (Kiel) demonstrated the change that 9/11 brought to U.S. counterterrorism policy as expressed in the U.S. National Security Strategy of 2002. Wilhelm Knelangen (Kiel) contested the notion that 9/11 played a larger role for German foreign and security policy than the incidents around the fall of the Berlin Wall and German reunification. However, Knelangen found the combat-intensive year 2009 in Afghanistan to be a real turning point in Germany's role from being perceived as a "civilian power" to becoming a "normal" ally.

Three book presentations complemented the panels. Birte Christ (Gießen) presented *9/11: Kein Tag, der die Welt veränderte*, which she co-edited with Michael Butter and Patrick Keller, discussing

the catalyst role of 9/11 from the perspective of different sub-disciplines in American Studies. Tobias Endler (Heidelberg) gave insights into his book *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S. and Themselves: 17 Conversations*, which contains extensive interviews conducted with U.S. public intellectuals. Bernd Greiner (Hamburg) summarized core arguments of his book *9/11: Der Tag, die Angst, die Folgen*, in which he argues that the issues of 9/11 – especially regarding the conduct of the so-called War on Terror – are as relevant and controversial today as they were a decade ago..

The concluding public panel discussion on Sunday morning once more drew a sizeable audience. Participants Manfred Berg (Heidelberg), Heather de Lisle (Berlin), Bernd Greiner (Hamburg), Olivia Schöller (Berlin), and Peter Struck (Berlin) also assigned 9/11 a catalyst function in many respects: in displaying the vulnerability of the U.S. towards crisis in general, the polarization of the political parties specifically, and the endangerment of democratic values in the western world. Most of the discussants saw little connection between 9/11 and the debate about immigration in Germany or the Arab Spring, which was not seen as a consequence of the American presence in Afghanistan and Iraq. In sum, the panelists could not agree on an answer to the main question: did 9/11 constitute a turning point? De Lisle and Struck clearly saw 9/11 as such a turning point, while Greiner and Berg differentiated: whether it was a turning point depended to a large degree on the perspective, the policy area, and the academic discipline from which one looks at 9/11.

A book project based on the conference proceedings is under way.



(L. to r.) Prof. R. Laurence Moore, Prof. Marc Valeri, and Prof. Philip Goff

## Conference "Religion and the Marketplace in the United States: New Perspectives and New Findings," October 4-6, 2011, at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies

"Religion and the Marketplace in the United States" brought together an international group of prominent and emerging scholars from a variety of disciplines for no small task: to turn attention to the seemingly singular relationship of business and faith, and the business of faith in America. A re-examination of previous scholarship, including some unquestioned orthodoxies, an exposition of current work on the multi-faceted relationship, and an exploration of the ways that relationship can be theorized was embarked upon at the HCA. After greetings from conference benefactor Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, who urged the attending scholars to share their important findings with the public, and a welcome by HCA founding director Detlef Junker, the conference began with

the HCA's own Jan Stievermann outlining the history of the interpretive framework, how "marketplace and religion" has been understood and employed. Director of the Center for the Study of Religion and American Culture, Philip Goff, of Indiana University-Purdue Indiana, then issued the challenge of the conference: "What we are doing here," Goff said, "is turning the table 90 degrees, and looking specifically at what scholars often offhandedly use as a metaphor."

Starting the first panel of the day was R. Laurence Moore, of Cornell University, the author of one of the major works on the subject, *Selling God: American Religion and the Marketplace of Culture* (1995). Moore examined the way economic standards and values are baptized by religion. Looking at Joel Osteen's Lakewood Church, Moore noted that prayer is understood as a market strategy, and "the measures of profit and loss remain the same." Even Osteen's megachurch itself, Moore argued, is



a place both of prayer and commerce without, apparently, any sense of cognitive dissonance. Mark Valeri, of Union Presbyterian Seminar, continued with a look at the way Evangelicalism gave rise to American capitalism, making it possible in the eighteenth-century colonies. Valeri criticized Max Weber's seminal theory, using more developed idea of markets, which points to the importance of the public sphere. It is only with the emergence of a public sphere that capitalism is established, as Jürgen Habermas has demonstrated, Valeri argued, and the public sphere in early America was formed by the discourse of Evangelicals.

The conference continued with an examination of early America's religious marketplace. Erich Geldbach (Marburg) spoke about Roger Williams and religious liberty. Though often understood as anti-religious, Geldbach argued that the policy of religious freedom was actually promoted as a way to encourage Christian piety. "Religious liberty," Geldbach said, "was developed not in spite of religion, but on behalf of a specific type of religion." Geoffrey Plank, of the University of East Anglia, looked at how reform movements affected Quaker's religious "market share." As they pushed the "severity of righteousness," and grew stricter, the group lost members, but reformers thought the changes would lead to more converts. Rachel Wheeler, of Indiana University-Purdue University, explored interactions between missionizing Moravians and the Mohican tribe. Wheeler criticized the limitations of the common models for analyzing such interactions, resistance vs. accommodation. "Christianity was not so different from the axe heads turned into bodily ornaments," Wheeler said. "It's not necessarily put to use in the manner intended by the manufacturers."

The idea of appropriation and empowerment was further explored by Rachel Cope, of Brigham

Young University. Cope looked at women's stories in the early days of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. Focusing on the autobiography of Lucy Smith, the mother of Mormonism's founder, Cope argued that early Mormon women's stories need to be looked at as their own, not as background noise to the "real" story of Mormon men. The question of women's control came up in a different way in Hilde Løvdal's look at *Focus on the Family*. Løvdal, of University of Oslo, said *Focus on the Family* closely links gender roles and "traditional family values" and the economy, believing there is a "gendered balance of the economy." The logic of the economic system, for *Focus on the Family*, "is all about sex and gender," Løvdal said. Suzanne Smith, of George Mason, finished the first day of panels with a look at Elder Lightfoot Solomon Michaux, an African-American radio preacher phenomenon of the 1920s. The "Happy Am I" preacher, as he was called, used mass media to sell his a new religious movement.

E. Brooks Holifield, of Emory University, gave the keynote address at the University of Heidelberg's Alte Aula. He made a compelling case that the big explanatory story used to explain the place of religion in America is deeply flawed. Scholars have used the idea of a religious marketplace competition to explain the prominence and predominance of religion in the United States, but that explanation has too many problems, Holifield said. The historical conditions that most likely led to American religiosity are only different from other, similar events in the history of Europe in degree. It is not that they happened in the U.S. and nowhere else, but that they happened differently or to a greater or lesser degree. Holifield concluded that "Differences of degree make a great deal of difference."

The second day began with a look at Evangelicals and markets. Barry Hankins, of Baylor University,



examined in detail the way Catholics and Evangelicals reacted to each other politically in the 1920s. Despite extensive natural affinities, culturally and theologically, there was a lot of animosity between the two groups when the first American Catholic candidate, Al Smith, ran for president. Understanding the tensions and attractions of their interaction requires, Hankins argues, the use of the interpretive framework of the marketplace. Hans Krabbendam, of the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, The Netherlands, continued with a look at Evangelical missions to Europe in the 1940s. The missionaries imagined the continent after World War II as a newly opened market, Krabbendam showed, and framed their worries about liberal protestants in terms of "monopolies." Though there were many reasons for the burst of Evangelical missionary activity in Europe from the 1940s through the 1960s, the missionaries themselves used the metaphor of the marketplace. Grant Wacker, of Duke Divinity School, and author of the forthcoming *Billy Graham and the Shaping of Modern America*, presented on the way Graham was himself marketed. Wacker looked at stories Graham told about his own past, at many photos of Graham with star athletes and at the frequently-reported on tableaux of the Graham family. Wacker said the marketing of Graham can be criticized for being an uncritical embrace of culture. It has to also be understood, though, that the effort was to discern "the standing aspirations in culture, and then draw on a wide range of already-resonant resources to address those aspirations."

The relationship of Graham and the marketplace was further examined with Uta Balbier's talk. Balbier of King's College, London, looked at Graham's crusades in Germany in the 1960s and how the message was intertwined with capitalism and the promise of a middle class lifestyle. Graham's style "drew comparisons to sales and marketing," Bal-

bier said, a comparison that ultimately went a lot deeper than style. Conversion was presented in terms of a business transaction, and heaven was conceived of as a consumerist paradise, complete with big American cars. "He spoke," Balbier said, "directly to the dreams and aspirations of the middle class." Axel R. Schäfer of Keele University looked at religious responses to the welfare state, examining the way conservative Evangelicals have accepted federal funding while attacking the government programs that provide the funding they accept. Schäfer concluded that "the combo of the utilization of federal administrative capacity and virulent anti-statism has a long lineage in American history." Matthew Sutton, of Washington State University, Pullman, also spoke about opposition to welfare, looking at apocalyptic themes in the fight against President Franklin D. Roosevelt's New Deal. There were Christian Fundamentalist worries, Sutton said, that Roosevelt himself was the Antichrist, or that the symbol of the National Recovery Administration, the blue eagle, was the "mark of the beast." Of more lasting effect, Sutton argued, was the way that this engrained in Evangelicals a distrust of government and a trust in the free market.

The afternoon was dedicated to questions of religion and book markets, and began with Matthew Hedstrom, of the University of Virginia, Charlottesville. Hedstrom explained how Harper's began publishing middlebrow religious books in the twentieth century that fostered the growth of spiritual eclecticism and liberal spirituality. The publishing house supported and encouraged a "free-flowing search for reality," with their books, "divorcing the theological from the religious, and from every creedal commitment." Monica Mercado, of the University of Chicago, also looked at middle class reading's relationship to religion, but focused on American Catholics in the nineteenth century.

Catholics were warned to “be as wary of a bad book as of a bad man,” Mercado said, and fed a steady stream of images of “good Catholics” in “good Catholic families,” reading “good” books. The emergence of the Catholic middle class in America, Mercado showed, was concurrent with the emergence of a book market.

Günter Leypoldt, of the University of Heidelberg, then turned the discussion to a very different kind of book market, asking about the valuation of literature which does not succeed on the market. Leypoldt said it is necessary to examine “embedded economies” and the moments of “singularity,” as explicated by Charles Taylor in his magnum opus *A Secular Age* (2007) to understand how transcendence is produced in the modern literary field. Daniel Silliman, of the HCA, also looked at a different kind of literary marketplace, at the way religious marketplaces are staged as sites of anxiety within contemporary apocalyptic Evangelical fiction. Considering a range of these popular novels, Silliman argued the anxiety of choice is central to the genre. Devin Zuber, of Union Theological Seminary, then turned attention to the “Buddhist aesthetic economies” in American literature, looking specifically at the how they work out in Henry David Thoreau and Ralph Waldo Emerson. “If the core of Buddhist economic policy can be said to be the elimination of suffering,” Zuber asked, “then can we say that Thoreau and Emerson wrote scripturally in this vein?”

The third day began with Michael Barton, of the University of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, talking about religion and the media marketplace with a discussion of religious programming on TV. Barton noted there are “not a variety of faiths seen on American television,” and said that what one does see is “talk of religion with none of the rituals.” The rituals traditional of Christianity, such as baptisms,

weddings, and funerals, are not seen on “The 700 Club,” e.g. though there are segments on cooking and personal financial management. Timothy E. W. Gleoge, an independent scholar, spoke on the religious-themed branding of Quaker Oats, and how Fundamentalists, such as those founding Moody Bible Institute, used the media marketing techniques of business to promote themselves and their ideas. According to Gleoge, the beginnings of Christian Fundamentalism wouldn’t have been possible, much less lasting, without the alliance of religious and business leaders, and history shows they learned from each other. Steward M. Hoover, of the University of Colorado, Boulder, then turned to a new media, and how people creatively interact with it, forming a new kind of religious ritual. Hoover looked at PostSecret, a site where people anonymously share secrets. People don’t just consume the site passively, but also contribute to it, making them “pro-sumers.” There’s a ritualistic way this happens, Hoover argued, which has to be understood both in market and religious terms. Media’s relationship to religion was further explored in the next panel, as Kendra Gruber, of the University of Pennsylvania, Harrisburg, spoke about the representations of Mormons on television. Gruber argued that the less orthodox forms of Mormonism make for good television. Looking at “Big Love” and “Sister Wives,” which prominently feature plural marriage, a practice long condemned by LDS authorities, Gruber argued American audiences get a skewed perspective on Mormonism. David Morgan, of Duke University, then argued for a re-orientation in the study of religious media. Morgan wants to “materialize the study of religion,” he said, turning attention to objects, and “shifting from what things mean, to how they work.” Treating religious images as texts to be interpreted has obscured the way “sacred economies” are at work. Jennifer Skinnon, of the University of Massachusetts, Boston, looked at

the way women's bodies are treated as objects in recent, popular apocalyptic movies. Considering *Wall-E*, *The Island*, *Children of Men*, and other films, Skinnon argued that contemporary films sell a "discourse of fear," where the solution is the subjugation of women. "Women's bodies," Skinnon said, "absorb the debt of modern society."

Turning to a very different form of "media," Sarah Pike, of California State University, Chico, then explained how youth festivals are a kind of alternative spirituality. "Burning Man" and other such festivals allow young people to attempt to construct a space outside of market economics, an alternative economy, a sacred space. "They experience the festivals as alternatives to capitalism," Pike said, "yet as consumers. There is a heightened tension between spirit selves and consumer identity." Turning from market resistance to adaptation, Katja Rakow, of the University of Heidelberg, spoke about Joel Osteen and Lakewood Church. Looking specifically at Osteen's most recent book, *Every Day a Friday*, as well as a DVD produced by Osteen's church, Rakow argued Osteen promotes a therapeutic message that melds religion with market practices. The HCA's own Anthony Santoro examined a similar melding with his paper on sports stadiums as sacred space. Detailing his tour of the Pittsburgh Steeler's Heinz Field, Santoro documented the many ways the space of stadium functions for the audience as sacred space, noting that the sense of the sacred is partially ascribed by the construction of the space and partially constructed by the participation of the audience. The final panel featured Hune Margulies, of the Martin Buber Institute, talking about Hasidic culture in the United States. Margulies compared the origins of Hasidism, with the Hasidic communities established in the United States in late nineteenth century, and the way the religion has thrived since then. Margulies concluded that these communities

succeeded in the religious marketplace because of the ways they were formed and shaped by resistance to the new context. Sean McCloud, of University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, continued the panel by looking at the ways Buddhism has been "Americanized." In the American context, according to McCloud, Buddhism has been transformed. It has become a "technology of the self," a tool for self-empowerment, by being dis-embedded from its original context. This means it is more privatized and individualized, shedding its history to allow for practices of mixing and collage. Inken Prohl, of Heidelberg University, picked up the issue of Buddhism's relationship to the American religious marketplace, arguing that Zen Buddhism has been refashioned, globally, by the export of "California Zen." The practices and theology of Buddhism brought to the U.S. by D.T. Suzuki were, Prohl said, re-made in the American context, but then that re-fashioned Buddhism was exported back to Japan and other Buddhist countries.

The conference concluded with a wide-ranging discussion. Moderated by Jan Stievermann and Philip Goff, conference attendees considered the state of the investigation and where to go from here. R. Laurence Moore reflected on why he first got interested in the subject, and Mark Valeri encouraged everyone to make the question "what is the market?" overt in their projects. Sean McCloud reminded everyone of Goff's opening comments about attending to the metaphor of marketplace. There was general agreement that while "markets" don't provide a metanarrative explaining religion, the intersections of markets and religions in the United States deserves continued careful study, and the conference inspired more than a few thoughts about the way forward.

## Bosch Archival Seminar

Bosch Foundation Archival Seminar  
for Young Historians 2011  
American History in Transatlantic Perspective

September 4-16, 2011

Archival seminar in Chicago, Madison, Boston,  
and Washington, D.C.

Co-organized by the German Historical Institute  
Washington, the University of Chicago's Depart-  
ment of History, and the Heidelberg Center for  
American Studies, with the generous support of  
the Robert Bosch Foundation.

Conveners: Mischa Honeck (Heidelberg Center for  
American Studies/GHI) and Martin Klimke (GHI).

Participants: Anja-Maria Bassimir (University of  
Münster), Jasmine Noelle Yarish (University of  
California, Santa Barbara), Martin Deuerlein (Uni-  
versity of Tübingen), Clayton Cleveland (University  
of Oregon), Agnes Kneitz w(University of Munich),  
Lisa Maurer (University of Nebraska), Clemens  
Immanuel Schmidt (University of Leipzig), Christo-  
pher Parcels (University of Massachusetts), Florian  
Plum (Free University of Berlin), Kevin Kosanovich  
(College of William and Mary).

### Seminar Report

After premiering successfully in 2010, the Bosch  
Foundation Archival Seminar for Young Historians  
convened for the second time in September 2011.  
Once again the tour spanned four cities (Chicago,  
Madison, Boston, and Washington, D.C.), and the  
ten seminar participants from Germany and the  
United States were introduced to the holdings and  
policies of a broad spectrum of American archives  
and research libraries. The goal of the seminar was  
to prepare doctoral students from both countries  
working in diverse fields of American history for

their prospective research trips; to teach them how  
to contact archives, use finding aids, and identify  
important reference tools; and to help them gain  
a greater appreciation of the various kinds of ar-  
chives and special collections located in the United  
States.

The Bosch Archival Seminar 2011 kicked off with  
a historical walking tour of downtown Chicago on  
Labor Day, September 5. The following day was  
set aside for the opening thesis workshop at the  
University of Chicago, hosted by Prof. Kathleen  
Neils Conzen and attended by members of the his-  
tory department and graduate student body. The  
seminar participants, who had been grouped into  
five transatlantic tandems consisting each of one  
German and one American student, commented  
on the work of their respective partners, exposed  
their projects to academic scrutiny, and received  
valuable feedback from their peers and present  
faculty members. On Wednesday, September 7,  
the Seminar met Daniel Greene, Director of the  
William M. Scholl Center of American History and  
Culture at the Newberry Library, for a daylong in-  
troduction to the institute's collections as well as  
for a general overview of American archival po-  
licies and practices. Among the topics discussed  
were the purchase of rare books, techniques for  
browsing manuscript collections, the expedience  
of maps for historical research, and the opportu-  
nities and pitfalls of digitalization. On Thursday  
morning, before the group departed for Madison,  
Wisconsin, the Bosch Archival Seminar 2011 vi-  
sited the Cook County Court Archives. In his pre-  
sentation, which was both instructive and enter-  
taining, court archivist Phil Costello demonstrated  
how historians could make creative use of legal  
records and court cases.

The first destination in Madison was the Wisconsin State Historical Society. Chief archivists Michael Edmonds and Harry Miller welcomed the seminar participants in the morning hours of September 9. They spoke about the history and holdings of their institution within the broader context of American state historical societies and impressed the students with the Wisconsin State Historical Society's dedication to accessibility and public education. After that, time was set aside for individual research before the group reassembled at the local University of Wisconsin history department for a roundtable talk on the relationship between historical research and political intervention. Under the guidance of faculty members William Reese, Jennifer Ratner-Rosenhagen, and independent scholar and award-winning bibliographer James Danky, the participants engaged in a spirited dialogue about whether historians not only have a right to address issues of contemporary relevance but should feel obliged to use their expert knowledge to shape and elevate public debate. While some identified with a more traditional ideal of the scholar as a disinterested and unbiased observer of the human past, most agreed that historians should engage in wider debates about politics and society to promote various causes or simply challenge the simplistic truth claims of others.

On Saturday evening, September 10, the group arrived in Boston, the third stop on its itinerary. The following morning gave the seminar participants a chance to witness public history in action with a guided tour of the Freedom Trail. After that, the group spent the rest of the day engaged in individual explorations. On Monday, September 12, the Bosch Archival Seminar 2011 resumed at the John F. Kennedy Presidential Library at Columbia Point. Enjoying a two-and-a-half-hour tour of the museum and library archives, including the Ernest Hemingway Collection, under the supervision of

Jane Lindsay, the group benefited from staff presentations on audiovisuals, declassification, and the library's manuscript collections and oral history program. The day concluded with a visit to the Baker Library Archives at the Harvard Business School. Katherine Fox, Associate Director of Public Services, acquainted the students with the wealth of the Baker Library's holdings, which touch upon almost every issue pertaining to the country's economic development from an agricultural society to an industrial and postindustrial superpower. The Bosch Seminar returned to Harvard University the next morning. The first stop was the Schlesinger Library, one of the leading U.S. research facilities for women's history. Head librarian Ellen Shea showed and explained letters, pamphlets, books, and visual material related to topics ranging from domesticity and black women to the women's suffrage movement. The final destination on the Boston schedule was Houghton Library, where Peter Accardo talked the group through some of the library's most precious Early Americana collections and gave valuable advice on how to use them for various research agendas.

After reaching Washington D.C. in the late afternoon of Tuesday, September 13, the Bosch Seminar continued the following day at the Library of Congress. A guided tour of the Jefferson building was followed by a presentation from archivist Daun van Ee, who spoke to the participants about the breadth of manuscript collections available through the Library of Congress Manuscript Division. The group then advanced to the Prints and Photographs Division, where Sara Duke and her coworkers had worked hard to muster illustration samples related to the participants' individual projects, thereby underscoring the significance of visual material for historical research. In the afternoon, the group was welcomed by Matthew Wasniewski from the Office of the Historian of

the House, who gave the seminar participants a detailed tour of Congress and explained the work of his office, which provides information on the history of Congress, as well as congressional documents and legislation, and chronicles its composition and individual members.

On Thursday, September 15, the group visited the Center for Legislative Archives at the National Archives and Records Administration in Washington, D.C. Historian Richard McCulley introduced the participants to the different types of legislative records of Congress, e.g. the committee or investigative records. Drawing on the Investigation into Stock Exchange Practices (Pecora Investigation) by the U.S. Senate Committee on Banking and Currency set up in March 1932 to explore the Wall Street crash of 1929 as a case study, McCulley presented a variety of research strategies for specific aspects and source material. After that, the group moved to the Treasure Vault to see a plethora of historical significant documents, such as a copy of Washington's First Inaugural Address, Franklin Delano Roosevelt's reading copy of his message asking Congress to declare war against Japan ("Day of Infamy" Address), as well as the enlarged copy of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Next, Executive Director James Grossman and Interim Special Projects Coordinator Julia Brookins welcomed the group to the American Historical Association (AHA) for a brown-bag lunch. They explained the job situation for historians in the U.S.,

elaborated on the various efforts of the AHA to reach out to graduate students and young scholars, and engaged the participants in a stimulating debate about their own experiences, plans, and perspectives on both sides of the Atlantic. Following this fruitful discussion, Associate Curator and Archivist Craig Orr received the seminar at the National Museum of American History. Orr presented a detailed picture of the museum collections that have a strong emphasis on the history of technology, advertising, marketing, and entrepreneurship, as well as American music, among other fields. He demonstrated successfully how many of the participants would find suitable source material for their topics in the museum's extensive holdings and offered specific advice and contacts for them to follow up.

Due to the damage incurred by a recent earthquake, the visit to the Moorland-Spingarn Research Center planned for Friday, September 16, regrettably had to be canceled. In the afternoon, the group met for a wrap-up discussion of the seminar at the German Historical Institute and was greeted by Deputy Director Uwe Spiekermann, who introduced them to the institute's work, research projects, as well as the many fellowship and networking opportunities. The farewell dinner that evening concluded a very successful seminar, whose participants were extremely grateful for the useful information, contacts, and prospects for future collaboration that it opened up for them.

## Individual Research

In 2010-2011, one HCA staff member successfully completed his Ph.D.:

### **Tobias Endler, M.A.**

Tobias Endler, born in 1978, studied English, Political Science, and German in Heidelberg and London and received his state exam in 2006. He wrote his thesis on American Enlightenment thinkers and their views on the Native American population. In 2007-08, Endler held a Research & Teaching Fellowship at Yale University. During this time, he also conducted a series of interviews with leading public intellectuals, which he turned into his first book: *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S., and Themselves* (2011). Tobias Endler is currently the HCA's Ph.D. & Research Coordinator. He continues to be interested in the history of political thought, democracy, and intellectual life.

Tobias Endler's dissertation, entitled "How to Be a Superpower: The Public Intellectual Debate on the Global Role of the United States after September 11," explores the role and self-perception of twenty-first century American intellectuals. Challenging the idea that intellectuals are becoming increasingly irrelevant in the eyes of politicians and the public, this dissertation argues that they have managed to stake out a significant role in present society. Richard Posner's dictum of the "intellectual in decline" does not hold true for the last decade. Instead, ever since September 11, renowned experts in the field of foreign policy such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, Noam Chomsky, Francis Fukuyama, Anne-Marie Slaughter, and Michael Walzer have engaged in a vibrant public political debate on the global status of the United States – and very successfully so. While struggling to define their nation's role in a world that has changed since the terror attacks, they discuss their own role in a society that thrives on public discourse. This dissertation demonstrates how intellectuals aim to mediate and "moderate" processes of public opinion forming and illuminates the complex structure of public intellectual work under today's complex conditions.



The following HCA staff members and associates are currently working on their Ph.D. projects which address major topics and problems in American Studies:

**Jens Hofmann, M.A.**

"Subsidized Hegemony? The Problem of the Offset Treaties in U.S.-German Relations, 1960-1976"

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Manfred Berg (History Department)

Between 1961 and 1976, the United States and Germany signed eight treaties designed to offset the security costs for stationing American troops on German soil as a conventional counterbalance and deterrence to the military forces of the Soviet Union. The initiative for these Offset Treaties originally came from the Eisenhower Administration, which argued that Germany should take an active part in the financing of the burdens of the Cold War's security costs, and thus back the monetary value of the U.S. dollar and a deficit-ridden U.S. budget. Germany first accepted but grew more and more displeased with the Offset agreements, claiming that the U.S. was using its dominant position within the NATO alliance to draw money from Germany. However, it was only in 1976 when Chancellor Helmut Schmidt finally succeeded in persuading U.S. President Gerald Ford that the Offset treaties were out of date.

This dissertation project aims at a variety of goals. First of all, it wants to shed light on the process and the arguments brought forward to convince the Ford Administration of finally terminating the Offset agreements. For that reason, it focuses on the political, economic and cultural background and the actions that propelled or aggravated this process. Second, by integrating the theoretical and methodological approaches of other disciplines such as Political Science, Sociology, Psychology and Anthropology, the project aims at combining the traditional focus and approach of Diplomatic History with the concepts of Social History and Cultural Studies. However, it still conceives political factors and actions as the driving force in the field of International Relations. Third, the project comprehends itself as a contribution to the research of U.S.-German relations during the short period of the Ford presidency, which has been widely neglected so far in comparison with the U.S.-German relations during the Carter presidency, characterized by continuously growing disagreement.





**Katia Rostetter, M.A.**

“‘Spaces of Decivilization’: A Civilization-Studies Approach to Cormac McCarthy’s Fiction”

Supervisor: Prof. Dr. Dietmar Schloss (English Department)

Long ignored and sometimes even denounced as merely another writer who exploits depictions of excessive violence to attract readers, Cormac McCarthy has only recently been recognized as a writer of serious fiction by literary critics.



This dissertation, which is part of a larger project on “Violence and the Hidden Constraints of Democracy: A New Civilization Studies Approach to Contemporary American Fiction,” aims at a more comprehensive understanding of the role of violence in Cormac McCarthy’s fiction. It looks at depictions of violence in their context, as part of the societies McCarthy portrays in his fiction. The dissertation will look at and explain the frequent and sometimes very graphic violence found in McCarthy’s fiction using theories of modernization and civilization as a theoretical framework. In particular, Norbert Elias’ theoretical premise that the process of increasing pacification of the habitus is closely connected, in fact, indivisibly linked, to processes of state-formation as ever more complex and dense networks of interdependence evolve will inform my approach to understand the depictions of violence in their societal context.

The project aims to look at the depictions of violence in Cormac McCarthy’s fiction from two different but connected angles. First, it approaches the novels as metaphorical or allegorical commentaries on American society and the role of violence therein. Second, the project aims to explore the sociological and aesthetic dimension of literary depictions of violence. Questions concerning the reasons why violence seems to be attractive to largely pacified readers living in a democratic state, or how depictions of violence might offer an outlet for feelings which have to be repressed in postmodern American society, will guide this part of the dissertation project. As part of the larger project, this subproject aspires to give a better understanding of the role violence plays in American fiction, and how it is then reflected upon American society.

## Selected Publications

The following list includes books and book chapters, articles and entries for reference works that have been published by HCA faculty and staff in 2010-2011. It furthermore encompasses publications relevant to the field of American Studies that have been published by scholars affiliated with the HCA.

### **Manfred Berg (HCA and History Department)**

"American Wars and the Black Struggle for Freedom and Equality," in: Georg Schild, ed., *The American Experience of War*. (Paderborn: Ferdinand Schöningh, 2010), 133-54.

With Dieter Gosewinkel, "Law: Constitution and Culture," in: Christof Mauch, ed., *The United States and Germany During the Twentieth Century: Competition and Convergence*. Publications of the German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C. (Cambridge and New York: Cambridge University Press, 2010), 52-69.

*Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (Chicago: Ivan Dee Publishers, 2011).

With Simon Wendt, eds., *Racism in Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation* (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2011).

With Simon Wendt, eds., *Globalizing Lynching History: Vigilantism and Extralegal Punishment from an International Perspective* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011).

With Simon Wendt, "Introduction. Racism in Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural

Transfer and Adaptation," in: *Racism in Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation*. Ed. by Manfred Berg und Simon Wendt (New York and Oxford: Berghahn Books, 2011), 1-19.

With Simon Wendt, "Introduction: Lynching from an International Perspective," in: *Globalizing Lynching History: Vigilantism and Extralegal Punishment from an International Perspective*. Ed. by Manfred Berg and Simon Wendt (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2011), 1-18.

Berg, Manfred, "Der 11. September – eine historische Zäsur?", in: *Zeithistorische Forschungen/Studies in Contemporary History* 8/3 (2011): 463-474.

### **Robert W. Cherny (San Francisco State University)**

"The Communist Party in California, 1935-1940: From the Political Margins to the Mainstream and Back," *American Communist History: Journal of the Historians of American Communism* 9 (2010): 3-33.

With Mary Ann Irwin and Ann Marie Wilson, eds, *California Women and Politics: From the Gold Rush to the Great Depression* (Lincoln, Nebr.: University of Nebraska Press, 2011).

With Carol Berkin, James Gormly, and Christopher Miller, *Making America: A History of the United States*. 6th edition (Boston: Wadsworth/Cengage, 2011).

With multiple authors, "Roundtable: Reviews of William J. Mello, New York Longshorem: Class

and Power on the Docks," *International Journal of Maritime History* 23 (2011): 293-339, esp. 296-301.

### **Tobias Endler**

*After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S., and Themselves* (Opladen & Farmington Hills, Mich.: Barbara Budrich Publishers, 2011).

### **Kirsten Fischer** (HCA and University of Minnesota)

"Purposes of Systematic Terror: Elihu Palmer's Critique of a Fearful Christianity," in: *Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines* 125 (2010): 13-26.

"Religion," in: Mark G. Spencer, ed., *Encyclopedia of the American Enlightenment* (New York: Continuum International Publishing Group, 2010).

### **Dorothea Fischer-Hornung** (English Department)

"'Keep alive the powers of Africa': Katherine Dunham, Zora Neale Hurston, Maya Deren, and the circum-Caribbean culture of Vodoun," in: *New Orleans in the Atlantic World: Between Land and Sea*. Ed. by William Boelhower (London and New York: Routledge, 2010).

With Rocio G. Davis and Johanna Kardux, eds., *Aesthetic Practices and Politics in Media, Music, and Art: Performing Migration* (New York and London: Routledge, 2011).

### **Philipp Gassert (University of Augsburg)**

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**Thomas Gijswijt**  
(Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

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**Iris Hahn-Santoro (HCA)**

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**Jens Hofmann (HCA)**

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**Jeannette Eileen Jones**  
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**Martin Klimke**  
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## Steven Less (HCA and MPI)

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## Julia Lichtenstein (HCA)

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## Peter Meusburger (Department of Geography)

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**Patrick Roberts**  
**(HCA and University of West Virginia)**

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**Anthony Santoro**  
**(HCA and History Department)**

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**Jan Stievertmann**  
**(HCA and Theology Department)**

Editor with Reiner Smolinski, *Cotton Mather and Biblia Americana: America's First Bible Commentary: Essays in Reappraisal*. (Tübingen: Mohr Siebeck, 2010). (Second edition Grand Rapids: Baker Academic, 2011).

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### **Martin Thunert (HCA)**

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**Simon Wendt (Goethe University Frankfurt)**

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## Selected Talks

During 2010-11, the following HCA staff members, students, and associates gave talks at the conferences, workshops, and panel discussions listed below:

### **Robert W. Cherny** **(San Francisco State University)**

With Seth Bernstein. "Seattle/Seiattel: An American Agricultural Commune in the Soviet Union, 1922-1939." American Historical Association, Pacific Coast Branch annual meeting, 2010, and Conference "Working Class Worlds, a Conference in Honor of Shelton Stromquist," 2011, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, USA.

"Jefferson Cowie, Stayin' Alive: The 1970s and the Last Days of the Working Class." Round Table Discussion, San Francisco State University Rights Conference, 2011, San Francisco, Calif., USA.

### **Maria Diaconu (HCA)**

"Representing the Unrepresentable: Writing Trauma in 9/11 Novels." Conference "The Art of Language: Cultural Expressions in American Studies," American Studies Association of Turkey, November 2010, Alanya, Turkey.

„New Mothers on The Blog: Reconfiguring Urban Femininity in the Digital Age." Conference "Gender, Sexuality, and Urban Spaces," Graduate Consortium in Women's Studies at MIT, March 2011, Boston, Mass., USA.

### **Tobias Endler (HCA)**

"After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S., and Themselves." Book Launch,

HCA, Heidelberg University, April 2011, Heidelberg.

"10 Years After 9/11: Social and Cultural Changes in American Society." Panel Discussion, English Theatre, September 2011, Frankfurt/Main.

"9/11 als Zäsur? Buchvorstellungen zum Thema." Conference „Zeitenwende 11. September? Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach," HCA, Heidelberg University, September 2011, Heidelberg.

"The World After 9/11." Deutsches Haus at NYU, September 2011, New York, USA.

"Ein Blick von Innen: Wie denkt Amerika heute über den 11. September?" September 2011, Multikulturelles Zentrum, Dessau.

„10 years after 9/11: How Does U.S. Foreign Policy Evolve in Light of the 2012 Presidential Elections." Panel Discussion, Center for North American Studies, University of Economics, November 2011, Bratislava, Slovakia.

### **Kirsten Fischer** **(HCA and University of Minnesota)**

"At Home in the Universe: Elihu Palmer's Pantheism and the Question of Nationalism in the Early American Republic." Annual Meeting of the Organization of American Historians, April 2010, Washington D.C., USA.

"Religious Freedom Then: James Madison and the Fight for Religious Freedom in Virginia." Interactive Workshop with LEADD (Leadership Education

Advancing Democracy and Diversity), a project of the Interfaith Youth Leadership Coalition, Carondelet Center, October 2010, St. Paul, Minn., USA.

"Religion and the Culture Wars," Presentation to Mindstretch, a men's reading group, December 2010, St. Paul, Minn., USA.

"The Mainstreaming of Evangelicalism in America." Presentation for a Salon of the Center for German and European Studies, University of Minnesota, December 2010, Minneapolis, Minn., USA.

"Elihu Palmer's Enlightenment: Vitalist Materialism in a Transatlantic Context." Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 2011, Boston, USA.

"The Historical Discipline in American Doctoral Programs and the Future of Area Studies." Conference "Internationalisierung der Geistes- und Sozialwissenschaften zwischen Area Studies und systematischen Disziplinen," Deutsches Historisches Institut, November 2011, Paris, France.

"Religion and the Founders." Lecture and Workshop, Teacher Training Seminar, Center for United States Studies at the Martin-Luther-University in Halle-Wittenberg and by the Consulate General in Leipzig, November 2011, Lutherstadt Wittenberg.

### **Dorothea Fischer-Hornung** (English Department)

Lectures on Katherine Dunham, Zora Neale Hurston, Maya Deren, and the Circum-Caribbean Culture of Vodoun, Bates College, April 2010, Maine, USA.

"Structural Violence and Thanatos in Dave Egger's Zeitoun." American Studies Association, Novem-

ber 2010, San Antonio, Tex., USA.

"'Artifacts of a Shared Imagination': Circulating Cultures in Amitav Ghosh's Sea of Poppies." Symposium "Transnational American Cultures: Stories, Objects, Spaces," The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies: Europe and the Americas (MESEA) and City University of Hong Kong, March 2011, Hong Kong, SAR, People's Republic of China.

"Border Crossings: The Mexican-U.S. Border in Hollywood Films." "(Trans-)Migration in den Amerikas," Lecture series "(Trans-) Migration in den Amerikas," sponsored by the Department for Romance Languages and the Initiative for Excellence Transcultural Studies, June 2011, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany.

"Moodling Through the Indian Diaspora: An Interdisciplinary, Transnational E-Learning Project." International Conference "Life Without Media," Blanquerna Faculty of Communication, Ramon Llull University, June/July 2011, Barcelona, Spain.

### **Thomas Gijswijt** (Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen)

"A New Beginning? Current Trends in Transatlantic Thought." Conference "The Obama Effect. Transatlantic Perspectives Past and Future," Roosevelt Study Center, October 2010, Middelburg, The Netherlands.

"Crossing the Atlantic: U.S. Presidents in Europe," Netherlands American Studies Association Conference, November 2011, Nijmegen, The Netherlands.

### **Iris Hahn-Santoro (HCA)**

„The Importance of Language Revitalization“, Lec-

ture at the Anishinaabe Language Revitalization Week, May 2011, Mount Pleasant, Mich., USA.

„The Unsuccessful Success Story of the Saginaw Chippewa Tribe: Language Revitalization Efforts on the Isabella Reservation.” HCA Ph.D. Colloquium, July 2011, Ritschweiher.

### **Mischa Honeck (HCA)**

“Exile, Emancipation and Cosmopolitan Nationalism in the Age of the American Civil War.” Conference “Transatlantic Alliances and Networks in a Global Context,” European Union Center of Excellence, April/May 2010, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

“Why We Fight: German-American Revolutionists Confront Slavery and Secession.” Symposium “Secession and War Come to Washington,” United States Capitol Historical Society, May 2010, Washington D.C. (CSPAN Video Library, <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/293631-4>).

“The Boons of Free-Labor Cotton: Transatlantic Antislavery Economies and Mid-Nineteenth Century Reform.” German Association for American Studies, May 2010, Berlin.

“Of Murderers and Martyrs: Felice Orsini’s Transnational Afterlife and the Radicalization of America.” Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, June 2010, Krakow, Poland.

“Immigrant Participation in the American Civil War: Revisiting the German-American Case,” Department for English and American Studies, November 2010, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg.

“‘Freemen of all Nations, Bestir Yourselves!’ Exile,

Emancipation, and Cosmopolitan Nationalism in the Age of the American Civil War.” Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 2011, Boston, USA.

“Why Continue to be the Humble Maid? The Transnational Abolitionist Sisterhood of Mathilde Franziska Anneke and Mary Booth.” Conference “German and German-American Dimensions of the Civil War,” March 2011, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

“Uprooted Emancipators: Transatlantic Abolitionism, the American Civil War, and the Politics of Belonging.” Conference “The Transnational Significance of the American Civil War: A Global History,” September 2011, Friedrich-Schiller-Universität Jena.

### **Jeannette Eileen Jones (University of Nebraska, Lincoln)**

“Captive Wild Woman: Gender, Evolution, and Atavism in Science Fiction Cinema during World War II.” American Studies Association, November 2010, San Antonio, Tex., USA.

“Brightest Africa in the New Negro Imagination.” Metropolitan Community College in cooperation with 91.5 WKIOS-FM: Omaha Public Radio, February 2011, Omaha, Nebr., USA.

“A Mad Tea Party: Race, Nativism, and the Obama Presidency.” MAS Colloquium, HCA, July 2011, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg.

### **Detlef Junker (HCA)**

“The Widening Atlantic: Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap.” Conference “Transatlantic Alliances and Networks in a Global Context,” April/May

2010, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

"The Widening Atlantic: Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap." Conference "Coercion, Cohesion and Conflict: the Future of the Transatlantic Community," June 2010, Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

"Sind die USA eine imperiale Macht?" October 2010, Lions Club Achern.

"The Widening Atlantic: Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap." Discussion organized by The German Center for Research and Innovation and the Heidelberg University Association at the German House, November 2010, New York, USA.

"The Widening Atlantic: Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap." November 2010, Center for European Studies, Harvard University.

"Sind die USA eine imperiale Macht?" Lions Club Heidelberg, April 2011, Heidelberg.

"Sind die USA eine imperiale Macht?" Förderverein der Freunde des Historischen Seminars der Universität Heidelberg, May 2011, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg.

"The Widening Atlantic. Market Gap, War Gap, God Gap.", Center for Transatlantic Studies der Jagiellonian University, June 2011, Krakow, Poland.

"Heidelberg Center for American Studies – Development and Structure." Friends of the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, November 2011, New York, USA.

"Sind die USA (noch) eine imperiale Macht?" Atlantische Akademie Rheinland-Pfalz / TU Kaiserslautern, November 2012, Lambrecht/Pfalz.

## **Eva-Maria Kiefer (HCA)**

„Neue Angst durch 9/11? Der Einfluss medial verstärkter Bedrohung in den USA." Conference „Zeitenwende 11. September? Eine transatlantische Bilanz zehn Jahre danach," HCA, Heidelberg University, September 2011, Heidelberg.

## **Martin Klimke**

**(HCA and German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.)**

"Schwarze und Rote Panther: Die afroamerikanische Bürgerrechtsbewegung und Black Power in der Bundesrepublik der 1960/70er Jahre." America House Munich, February 2010, Munich.

"The Other Alliance: Student Protest in West Germany and the United States in the Global Sixties." Book Launch Woodrow Wilson Center, April 2010, Washington, D.C., USA.

"1968 in International Perspective." Panel Discussion, The Graduate Center, City University of New York, May 2010, New York, USA.

"An Ambivalent Partnership: Protest Movements and the Media during the Cold War." Volda University College, September 2010, Volda, Norway.

"The Other Alliance: Student Protest in the United States and West Germany in the Global Sixties." Book Discussion, Series "Zeitgeschichte im Gespräch," with Ingrid Gilcher-Holtey and Gretchen Klotz-Dutschke, Heinrich Böll Foundation, September 2010, Berlin.

"Between 99 Red Balloons and a Green Caterpillar: Nuclear and Environmental Discourse in 1980s Popular Music and Electoral Politics." Internatio-

nal Conference, "Accidental Armageddons: The Nuclear Crisis and the Culture of the Second Cold War, 1975-1989," (convened with Eckart Conze and Jeremy Varon), German Historical Institute, November 2010, Washington, D.C., USA.

"America in the World: A Cultural History of U.S. Foreign Relations." Dokkyo University, Soka, December 2010, Saitama, Japan.

"Revolutionary Alliances: The African American Civil Rights Struggle in Divided Germany." Annual Meeting of the American Historical Association, January 2011, Boston, Mass., USA.

"Transnational Alliances: The African American Freedom Struggle and Germany." Global History Seminar, History Department, Northeastern University, February 2011, Boston, Mass., USA.

With Maria Höhn, Jeremy Varon, and Norbert Frei, "Radical Liaisons and Race: Germany and the U.S. in the Global Sixties." Book Talk and Panel Discussion, New School for Social Research, Parsons The New School for Design, March 2011, New York, NY, USA.

"Sonne statt Reagan: Die Wahlkampfstrategie der Grünen bei der Bundestagswahl 1983." Conference, "Der NATO-Doppelbeschluss und die Friedensbewegung der 1980er Jahre," Heinrich-Böll Foundation/Archive Green Memory, March 2011, Berlin.

"The African American Freedom Struggle and Germany." Conference, "Theoretical, Conceptual and Methodological Challenges in Studying Transnational Struggles for Recognition," Social Science Research Center (WZB), April 2011, Berlin.

With Maria Höhn, "The Civil Rights Struggle, Afri-

can American GIs, and Germany." Vassar Sesquicentennial Meeting of the Presidents International Advisory Council, German Historical Institute, May 2011, London, U.K.

With Tibor Frank and Stephen Tuck, "History as Politics: The Contrasting Political Uses of American History on Either Side of the Atlantic." International Network Conference, "You, the People: National Location and the Writing of American History - The Example of Europe," Rothermere American Institute, Oxford University, July 2011, Oxford, U.K.

"Pop for Peace? Nuclear and Environmental Discourse in 1980s Popular Music." Annual Conference of the German Studies Association, September 2011, Louisville, Ky., USA.

"Petra Kelly and the Nuclear Crisis of the 1980s." Research Retreat, German Historical Institute, October 2011, Washington, D.C., USA.

"'Angelamania': Angela Davis Solidarity Campaigns in Divided Germany." Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association, October 2011, Baltimore, Md., USA.

"From Environmental Movement to 'Anti-Parties Party': The Rise of the West German Greens in 1980s Cold War Culture." Workshop, "Dopo il Sessantotto. Movimenti di protesta in Italia e in Europa negli ultimi decenni della Guerra Fredda" [After '68. Protests movement in Italy and Europe in the last decades of the Cold War], Senate Library, November 2011, Rome, Italy.

"Protest and Power: 1968 as a Turning Point in the History of International Relations?" Institute of International Studies, Charles University, December 2011, Prague, Czech Republic.

"Transnational Diplomacy: Grassroots Challenges

to U.S. Foreign Policy during the Cold War." Department of International History, The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, December 2011, Geneva, Switzerland

### **Steven Less (HCA and MPI)**

"Acknowledging the Past: The Involvement and Representation of Victims and Perpetrators in Memorialisation Processes." Organized by Impunity Watch, Anne Frank House, Center for Holocaust and Genocide Studies, November 2010, Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

Workshop on German Public Law with Faculty Members and Students of Tel Aviv University, August/September 2010, Heidelberg.

### **Günter Leypoldt (HCA and English Department)**

"Schwarze Kultur? Zur Verschränkung ethnischer und sozialer Differenz im Diskurs über das amerikanische ‚Ghetto‘." University of Mainz, July 2010, Mainz.

"'Radiance in Dailiness:' Spirituality and Resacralization in Don DeLillo." University of Berne, October 2010, Berne, Switzerland.

"The Concept of Culture." Heidelberg University, October 2010, Heidelberg.

"Stationen des Charismabegriffs nach Hegel." Heidelberg University, June 2011, Heidelberg.

"Dignified Tackiness: Blue-Collar Poverty in the Work of Raymond Carver." University of Freiburg, July 2011, Freiburg.

"Cultural Sociology." Free University Berlin, November 2011, Berlin.

November 2011, Berlin.

### **Julia Lichtenstein (HCA)**

"Hybrid Identities in a Southern Context in Cynthia Shearer's *The Celestial Jukebox*." PCA/ACA Annual Conference, April 2010, in St. Louis, Mo., USA.

"Spacing the Ultra-South: How Literary Southern Tropes Create Contemporary Dixie." HCA Spring Academy, Heidelberg March 2011, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg.

### **Wilfried Mausbach (HCA)**

"Marching Together, Striking Separately? The Transatlantic Struggle Against the Euromissiles and the Future of the West." Conference "Transatlantic Alliances and Networks in a Global Context," European Union Center of Excellence, April/May 2010, University of Wisconsin-Madison, USA.

"Forlorn Superpower: European Reactions to the American Wars in Vietnam and Iraq." Institute for American Studies and Polish Diaspora, Jagiellonian University, June 2010, Krakow, Poland.

"Nuclear Winter: Prophecies of Doom and Images of Desolation during the Second Cold War." International Conference „Accidental Armageddons: The Nuclear Crisis and the Culture of the Second Cold War, 1975-1989," November 2010, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C., USA.

"Gun Passion? Waffenbesitz in den USA." Deutsch-Amerikanisches Zentrum/ James F. Byrnes-Institut e.V., March 2011, Stuttgart.

"Gun Passion? The Second Amendment and What It Really Means." Democrats Abroad Heidelberg, May 2011, Heidelberg.



## **Anja Milde (HCA)**

"Liberal Oases in Conservative Hell: Intersections of Race and Sexuality in Equal Rights Activism." British Association for American Studies, April 2010, University of East Anglia, Great Britain.

"Liberal Oases in Conservative Hell: Oral Histories of the Intersection of Race and Sexuality in Equal Rights Activism." International Oral History Conference "Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning," July 2010, Prague, Czech Republic.

"Claiming a Place at the Table: The Gay Liberation Front, the Black Panther Party, and the Complexity of Coalition Politics, 1969-1971." Ph.D.Colloquium, Heidelberg Center for American Studies, October 2010, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg.

## **Patrick S. Roberts (HCA and Virginia Tech University)**

Midwest Political Science Association. 2010, Chicago, USA.

Congressional Research Service, 2010, Washington, D.C., USA.

General Accountability Office, 2010, Washington, D.C., USA.

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), 2010, Chicago, Ill., USA.

Legatum Institute, 2011, London, U.K.

American Political Science Association, 2011, Seattle, Wash., USA.

Non-Proliferation Policy and Education Center, 2011, Washington, D.C., USA

European Political Science Association, 2011, Dublin, Ireland.

HCA, 2011, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg.

University College London, 2011, London, U.K.

## **Dietmar Schloss (HCA and English Department)**

"Beyond Postmodernism? Don DeLillo's Novel Underworld (1997) and the Contemporary American Scene." Lecture Series Literaturgeschichte, Anglistisches Seminar, Heidelberg University, February 2011, Heidelberg.

"Cosmopolitanism and Nationalism in the Literary and Political Writings of Joel Barlow." Conference "Cosmopolitanism and Nationhood in the Age of Jefferson," Free University Berlin, December 2010, Berlin.

## **Martin Thunert (HCA)**

"Wissen – Beraten – Entscheiden." NRW School of Governance, University Duisburg/Essen, January 2010, Duisburg.

"From Vision to Indifference? Shifting Canadian Views on Europe." Society for Canada Studies, February 2010, Grainau.

"Speaking Truth to Power? The Politics of Expertise." Willy Brandt School of Public Policy, University of Erfurt, April 26 2010, Erfurt.

"Neighbours at Odds? The Consequences of Shifting and Conflicting Priorities in Canadian-American

Relations After September 11, 2001." May 2010, Greifswald.

"Expert Policy Advice in Germany." University of Warsaw, May 2010, Warsaw.

"The Performance of Canadian Democracy and Governance in Comparison to Other OECD Countries through the Lens of the Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) Project." Canadian Political Science Association, Concordia University, June 2010, Montreal.

"Kanada in den transatlantischen Beziehungen – heute." University of Augsburg, June 2010, Augsburg.

With Henrik Schober, "Expert Policy Advice and Public/Societal Consultation in Germany." Conference "Intellectual Bridges to the Future: Policy Advice and Policy Development in Canada and Germany," Canadian Embassy, June 2010, Berlin.

"Think Tanks in Germany: A Country Profile." Workshop "Think Tanks in Global Comparison: Modes of Operation" Friedrich Ebert Stiftung and University of Zhejiang, August 2010, Hangzhou, China.

"Das US- Hochschulsystem im Überblick." Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, September 2010, Mainz.  
"Kongresswahlen 2010 – Denktzettel für Obama?" Friedrich-Naumann-Stiftung, November 2010, Mainz.

„Kommissionen, Stiftungen, Think Tanks – Akteure der Politikberatung in Deutschland." November 2010, Hamburg.

"Progressive Think Tanks in the United States – No longer on the Defensive?" AG Politikwissenschaft in the DGfA, November 2010, Lambrecht.

"Wiedervereinigung und Europa aus transatlantischer Perspektive." Katholische Akademie, November 2010, Ludwigshafen.

"Minderheitsregierungen in Europa und Nordamerika – empirische Befunde und normative Überlegungen." University of Augsburg, November 2010, Augsburg.

"Kanadas Energiepolitik und Energiesicherheit." Lehrerfortbildung Politische Bildung: Kanada, November 2010, Tutzing.

"Obamas Gesundheitsreform." Evangelische Akademie, December 2010, Loccum.

## Jolanta and Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars

In January of 2008, the Ghaemian Foundation established the Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars as part of its commitment to promote the arts and sciences in Heidelberg.

The purpose of the Fund, which is administered by the HCA, is to facilitate research and scholarly exchange in the field of American Studies by providing grants for travel to a library, an archive, or academic conference. The Fund is able to make annual allocations up to a total amount of 10,000 EUR. Grants are awarded in a speedy and unbureaucratic manner.

Especially in the humanities, and in particular for graduate students and younger scholars, the challenge to procure funds for research-related travel is ever recurrent and often insurmountable. The Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars helps alleviate this condition by assisting scholars with the expense of travel. Grants from the Soheyl Ghaemian Travel Fund for Scholars are awarded by the HCA on a competitive basis. Eligibility is limited to graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and postdoctoral scholars at Heidelberg University who work on topics related to the United States, Canada, or transatlantic relations.

In 2011, the Ghaemian Travel Fund sponsored travel costs and accommodation for Mohamed Metawe, who defended his dissertation at the HCA in July, and Joseph Haker, who participated in the HCA's conference "Religion and the Marketplace in the United States" in October. In addition, the Ghaemian Travel Fund supported the following young scholars and their research projects:

**Gemma Ngoc Dao** (HCA): "Moving on to a Common Ground: The Normalization of the Relations between Vietnam and the United States after 1975"

**Melanie Gish** (HCA): "'We're evangelical and we're environmental, and yes, we think we can be both!' The Creation Care Movement in the Contemporary United States from an Outside Perspective"

**Theresa Heinke** (Heidelberg University Law School): "Liability Limitations in Maritime Law"

**Jens Hofmann** (Historisches Seminar): "Subventionierte Hegemonie? Das Problem der Offset-Abkommen in den deutsch-amerikanischen Beziehungen (1960-1976)"

**Michael Taylor** (HCA): "The Temptations of the Trigger: Demythologizing Violence in Cooper's The Pioneers" and "Pious Persecution: Religious Intolerance in Antebellum America"





## James W. C. Pennington Award President Obama Sends Message of Greetings



Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger at the Inauguration of the James W. C. Pennington Award.

As part of the 625th anniversary of the Ruperto Carola, the HCA celebrated “America Day” on June 24, 2011, underscoring the strong ties between the university and the United States. America Day started in the afternoon with a panel discussion about president Obama’s political future: “The Obama Presidency: Will there be a Second Term?” Among the participants evaluating the chances of the U.S. president and his opponents were political scientist and HCA Ghaemian scholar in residence Patrick Roberts, HCA graduate student and author Styles Sass, American Studies scholar Dorothea Fischer-Hornung from Heidelberg University, and history professor Mansiha Sinha from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. The discussion was moderated by Martin Thunert (HCA) in German and English.

After a musical intermezzo with Eva Mayerhofer

and Christian Eckert, America Day continued with the festive inauguration of the James W.C. Pennington Award, initiated by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) and the Faculty of Theology. The award commemorates an African-American pastor and scholar whose non-violent struggle for black freedom in the United States and beyond earned him fame within the international abolitionist movement. A former slave, Pennington was the first African American to attend classes at Yale University. He became a Presbyterian minister in 1838. During the 1849 Paris International Peace Congress, Pennington met Heidelberg scholar Friedrich Carové, who convinced the university’s theological faculty to bestow an honorary doctorate upon Pennington in the same year. This was the first award of its kind bestowed by a European—and perhaps any—university upon an African American.

After introductory remarks by the HCA’s Founding

Director, Prof. Dr. Dr. h.c. Detlef Junker, and Honorary Senator Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, Consul Jeanine Collins had a special surprise for the sizeable audience: A message of greetings from the president of the United States! In his message, President Obama conveyed his greetings and his appreciation for the James W. C. Pennington Award. The president thanked the HCA for this initiative, which, he said, reflected the strong alliance and enduring friendship between the United States and Germany. According to President Obama, it is especially appropriate that this award will enable scholars to conduct research on subjects that were important to Pennington: slavery and emancipation, peace, education, religion and inter-cultural understanding. The president also expressed his conviction that in honoring James W.C. Pennington's achievements, Heidelberg University will inspire future generations of Americans and Germans.

Prof. Junker was deeply moved by President Obama's words and thanked the president on

behalf of the HCA's students and staff. Obama's letter, he emphasized, was a tremendous encouragement for the HCA to proceed on its chosen path.

Professor Junker also thanked Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger for his generosity in underwriting the initial awards in the new program. In his remarks, Lautenschläger, himself the recipient of an honorary doctorate from the Faculty of Theology and an Honorary Senator of Heidelberg University, stressed his foundation's goals of promoting understanding between peoples and cultures.

Following the introduction of the Pennington Award, Manisha Sinha, professor of Afro-American Studies at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst gave the keynote speech: "James W. C. Pennington and Trans-Atlantic Abolitionism," which is documented below. Afterwards, the audience enjoyed drinks and scrumptious fingerfood in the yard and the Atrium.



Prof. Detlef Junker, Consul Jeanine Collins, Dr. h.c. Manfred Lautenschläger, Heidemarie Engelhorn, and Curt Engelhorn

## Manisha Sinha: "James W. C. Pennington and Transatlantic Abolitionism"

I am honored to be invited to celebrate the endowing of a fellowship named after the black abolitionist, Reverend James W.C. Pennington on the occasion of the 625th anniversary of the University of Heidelberg. Indeed, the fact that the university has chosen to draw attention to its remarkable bestowal of an honorary doctorate to a black minister, abolitionist, writer, thinker, and former slave in 1849 is extremely gratifying for a historian of abolition and antislavery like me.<sup>1</sup> Today I want to talk about Pennington and the significance of his work but also a little bit about the German encounter with slavery and race.

Western Enlightenment thought that stressed universal natural rights and freedom, humanitarian and environmental ideas, formed the ideological underpinnings of antislavery. But as American patriot Benjamin Rush asked, how has Europe "civilized as it is, and thoroughly versed in the laws of nature, and the rights of mankind" legally authorized "the daily outrages against human nature, permitting them to debase man almost below the level of the beasts of the field?"

As far as Africans were concerned, Enlightenment thought was a double-edged sword. While its precepts obviously lent themselves to antislavery use and inspired critics of slavery such as French philosophes Montesquieu, Rousseau, Condorcet, Diderot, Voltaire, and the Scottish Enlightenment thinkers Frances Hutcheson, George Wallace, John Millar, and Adam Smith, more than a few made exceptions based on climate, race, and region to their general theories. Viewing the power to reason and write as essential attributes of human nature, ideas associated with the Enlightenment also allowed Europeans to write groups that did not possess an indigenous literate tradition out of

humanity. Prominent philosophers from Immanuel Kant and David Hume to G.W.F. Hegel explicitly expressed reservations about Africans' intellectual capacity. For John Locke, while slavery remained outside the social contract, the enslavement of Africans was legitimate, a product of prisoners taken in a "just war." Indeed, Locke's notion of the right to property as a natural right bolstered slaveholders' arguments as much as his description of slavery as a state of war lent support to antislavery. The great liberal political philosopher helped write a feudal constitution for the colony of South Carolina, which instituted hereditary ranks and lifetime servitude for Africans.<sup>2</sup>

Racism in the western world often represented the flip side of loftier ideas on human equality and rationality. These opinions received further backing from the new science of man, which graded mankind along a hierarchical scale in Linnaeus' "Great Chain of Being" that usually ranked Europeans on top and Africans at the bottom and, for the more crude racial thinkers of the day, sharing traits with apes and orangutans. The "racist Enlightenment" of Lord Kames (who believed "races" constituted distinct species) co-existed with the environmentalism of Comte Buffon and Johann Friedrich Blumenbach. Blumenbach stressed the unity of mankind and varieties within different groups but a simplistic version of his classifications and study of craniums would lay the foundation for scientific racism in the nineteenth century. Blumenbach insisted that Africans were naturally equal in intelligence and mental capacity to Europeans but still saw the latter as "savage" and the former "civilized." The skull of a female Georgian was his exemplar of beauty. The Caucasian, the original type for Blumenbach, connoted beauty and civilization.<sup>3</sup>





Prof. Manisha Sinha

The political heritage of the Enlightenment, like its intellectual legacy, was a mixed blessing for African Americans, giving a powerful impetus to antislavery but also containing elements that justified their enslavement. A commitment to republicanism could range from a conservative belief in propertied citizenship and the political exclusion of the dependent, non-propertied to more progressive ideas of universal liberty and equality and even demands for social justice and economic parity. Racial slavery could act as the material basis for the growth of “white republicanism” in the American colonies. And protection of material and property interests in slavery was as much a cause for rebellion for some patriot slaveholders as ideas about liberty and self-government. But belief in republicanism also posed a threat to slav-

ery, which in turn could weaken commitment to revolutionary ideals. With the start of the American Revolution, which in turn inaugurated the age of revolution in the western world, all these ideas and the ways in which they shaped the antislavery impulse became evident.

While most students of transatlantic abolitionism are familiar with the story of the Anglo-American antislavery movements of the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries and more recently, of the impact of the French and Haitian Revolutions on the course of slavery and abolition, they have not paid enough attention to the German story. Even today we know much more about the contributions of German Forty Eighters to the abolition movement in the United States in the nineteenth

century than about the impact of early German antislavery ideas and encounters between Germans and people of African descent like Pennington. On the very eve of the start of the English movement against the African slave trade and the rise of the first wave of antislavery in the early American Republic, the famous German philosopher Johann Gottfried Herder criticized slavery and European colonialism in his seminal *Ideas for a Philosophy of the History of Mankind*. In fact to Herder, as much as British Quakers, we can attribute the famous abolitionist slogan, "Am I Not a Man and a Brother?" for Herder had asked, "Is the African not a Man and your Brother?" No doubt, Herder, like Quaker abolitionists, was influenced by the New Testament and the Biblical question Cain had raised, "Am I My Brother's Keeper?" Herder's evocation of "Humanitate," which he got from Diderot and the French Revolution, also allowed him to develop a trenchant critique of European colonialism, which he described in his poem on Christopher Columbus as a crime against humanity by the "white race." And nearer home, he criticized the German princes who were complicit in the slave trade. While Herder, like many European thinkers of his age, made certain connections between climate and race that promoted notions of racial difference as a result of the environment, he was a severe critic of slavery.

In his remarkable cycle of poems, however, that he ironically entitled "Neger Idyllen," Herder reversed the symbolism of black and white, good and evil, writing "Der Neger mahlt den Teufel weis" and referring to the "noble black man" and his master as a "white devil." Also reversing the empty morality of Christianization and colonization, Herder tells the tale of a dying slave, "Warum gießest du mir Wasser auf den Kopf?' sagte jener sterbende Sklave zum Missionar .... 'Ich mag keinen Himmel, wo Weise sind,' sprach er, kehrete das Gesicht ab

und starb." The hero of one of his poems is a slave rebel, Zimeo, the head of a maroon community of runaway slaves in Jamaica, who vows that his son shall never be a slave to a white man. In another is the story of a slave Fetu, who cuts off his right hand rather than kill a fellow slave. Herder was also aware of the early American abolitionists as one of his poems "Der Geburtstag" celebrates Warner Mifflin, the Quaker abolitionist in Delaware who freed his slaves. Not until the radical German Jewish poet Heinrich Heine would publish "Das Sklavenschiff" in 1853, would any German write such overtly abolitionist poems. Not surprisingly, Herderian philosophy and ideas were a huge influence on twentieth century African American intellectuals and activists like W.E.B. Du Bois, who studied in Berlin and received his doctor honoris causa from Humboldt University in 1958, nearly a hundred years after Heidelberg honored Pennington. The German explorer and naturalist, Alexander von Humboldt, after whom the university was named, was also of course a passionate critic of racial slavery in the New World. Humboldt apparently was the moving force behind Prussia's abolitionist decree of 1857.<sup>5</sup>

Many German revolutionaries and liberal thinkers of the mid-nineteenth century would express abolitionist sentiments. "The Slave Ship" was one of the few overtly abolitionist poems written in German at this time. Heine's satirical poem is also often overlooked but it was comparable to those written by Anglo-American abolitionist poets like William Cowper and John Greenleaf Whittier. In his poem, Heine delivers a searing critique of European greed, religious hypocrisy, and racism illustrated by a rapacious Atlantic Slave Trade.

The supercargo Mynheer van Koek  
Is sitting and calculating;  
There in his cabin he reckons the worth

And profits to come from his freighting

"The rubber is good, the pepper is good  
At three hundred barrels we'll set her  
I've gold dust here, and ivory-  
The black commodity's better. ....

In Jesus' name, have mercy, Lord,  
On the lives of this sinful black chattel!  
If they enrage Thee, don't forget  
That they're as dumb as cattle.

As Mischa Honeck has shown in his recent book, many German forty eighters who immigrated to the United States also joined the abolition and free soil movements against slavery at this time.<sup>6</sup>

The African encounter with early modern Europe predated the German exposure to racial slavery. Even before Pennington, Africans had made their presence known in German academia. African scholars in eighteenth century Europe, when racial slavery had increasingly become the norm in the Americas, dealt directly with the issue of slavery. In 1729, Anton Wilhelm Amo, whose brother was sold into slavery in Surinam, studied in Halle, Germany and wrote a Latin disputation on the judicial position and rights of Africans in Europe. He went on to study philosophy at the University of Wittenberg and taught at the University of Jena. Unfortunately, only his works of philosophy have survived. In 1747, disillusioned with European racism, he returned to the Gold Coast where he died a few years later. In 1965, Halle erected a statue of an African couple to commemorate Amo. His grave is in modern Ghana.

On the other hand, Jacobus Elisa Johannes Capitein, brought to Holland by a Dutch slave trader, in his 1742 Latin dissertation justified the enslavement of Africans on evangelical grounds. Capit-

ein's question "Is slavery compatible with Christian freedom or not?" which he answered in the affirmative, was a plea for the Christianization of Africans and a claim for their spiritual equality. On the face of it proslavery, his dissertation was also a refutation of the racist idea that Africans lacked a soul, the power to reason, and could not make good Christians. He spent his last years in Africa as a missionary increasingly at odds with the authorities of the Dutch West India Company. The French abolitionist Abbe Henri-Baptiste Gregoire would use the examples of both Amo and Capitein to argue for black equality in his anti-racist work *An Enquiry Concerning the Intellectual and Moral Faculties, and Literature of Negroes*, published in 1808.<sup>7</sup>

The experience of Amo thus preceded the unusual awarding of a doctorate to Pennington in 1849. In his plea that the University of Heidelberg grant this honor to Pennington, Professor Friedrich Wilhelm Carove, who had been impressed by Pennington at the Paris peace conference earlier that year and who had first met him in 1843 at the London General Antislavery Conference, concluded,

The University of Heidelberg was the first to confer this honor upon a Jew (Spinoza) who was called a lecturer of philosophy; the University was the first in which a chair for natural rights and human rights was founded; may the honored theological faculty be the first who, through conferring this doctoral degree, to a North American, to a mistreated and despised North American, atone through this man for the sins Europe has contributed to natural and human rights.

Carove, who was also the co-author of a German proclamation demanding the abolition of slavery, asked the university to bestow an honorary doctorate of divinity on Pennington not just as a sym-



James W. C. Pennington

bolic gesture. In his presentation, he was careful to mention some of Pennington's works, his recently published autobiography, his textbook of black history published in 1841, and his 1839 speech on West India emancipation. In so honoring Pennington the university then did not just draw attention to the plight of enslaved black Americans but also recognized Pennington's works as an abolitionist and Presbyterian clergyman of some repute. When Carove died in 1857, the American and Foreign Anti Slavery Society of whose executive committee Pennington was a member held a memorial for the German abolitionist Professor.<sup>8</sup> The doctorate itself encouraged Pennington to write more on emancipation and against slavery in the 1850s cementing his reputation as an original thinker on the problems of slav-

ery and race in the early American republic.

Pennington, an escaped slave from Maryland, was a pioneering black abolitionist. He had participated in the African American protest against colonization, the plan to repatriate all free blacks back to Africa, and in the early black convention movement. He had been involved in the famous Amistad case of 1839 and created an independent missionary society, the Union Missionary Society, which eventually became incorporated into the abolitionist American Missionary Association. Mostly self-taught, he had sat in on theology classes at Yale University and became an ordained Presbyterian minister, who ministered in black churches in Long Island, New Haven, and Hartford. He was an advocate of black education,

teaching in black schools and writing articles on the schooling of black children in the *Colored American*, one of the first black newspapers published in the United States from 1837 to 1841. Ironically, Pennington, who in the 1850s would have to resign from his church because he was accused of intemperance, was also an advocate of temperance, one of the founders of the Colored American Conventional Temperance Society in 1833, and an active member of the Connecticut Temperance and Moral Reform Society. In his 1839 address on West Indian emancipation delivered in Newark, New Jersey, Pennington advocated immediate, uncompensated abolition. Like most black abolitionists, he combined reform efforts geared towards racial uplift with antislavery activism.<sup>9</sup>

After he took over the ministry of the Talcott Street Congregational church in Hartford, Pennington established himself as a writer of some repute in abolitionist circles. In 1841, he published *A Text Book of the Origin and History, of the Colored People* to combat racial stereotypes and misconceptions in popular and intellectual circles. The same year he wrote a preface for a young black teacher, Ann Plato's collection of poems, helping her to publish it. In his book, Pennington sought to write a correct history of black people that would cultivate a "right state of feeling on the total subject of HUMAN RIGHTS." Using the Bible as his touchstone, Pennington refuted proslavery ministers who "not only...desecrated their holy profession but they have taken a part of God's word and construed it into a commission to shed the innocent blood of his creatures." He debunked the popular idea that the enslavement of Africans was justified as they were descendants of Ham and cursed by Noah to be slaves and argued instead that they were "*properly the sons of Cush and Misraim amalgamated.*" Claiming ancient Carthage

for African civilization, Pennington argued that slavery was a vestige of the "dark ages" of whom the "American slaveholder" was an apologist.

More interesting than Pennington's exegesis of the Bible and ancient history was his systematic refutation of pseudo scientific racism and racist theories derived from the Bible and popular culture. His "position" was that the "*notion of [racial] inferiority is not only false but absurd and therefore ought to be abandoned.*" He particularly challenged the racist idea that "there is an *inferior order of intellect, and that those of this order are radically and constitutionally inferior, so that no means can change that constitution or raise them from that order.*" Among the "colored men who have distinguished themselves," he cited Amo born in Guinea, who had received a doctor of philosophy from the University of Wittenberg. And like generations of African Americans, starting with the mathematician Benjamin Banneker to black abolitionists like William Hamilton and David Walker, he did not hesitate to take on the racist views of the author of America's Declaration, Thomas Jefferson. In his *Notes on the State of Virginia*, Jefferson's antislavery pronouncements were severely compromised by his acute racism. Amazed that Jefferson could be blind to the stultifying effects of oppression and slavery on black Americans and his denigration of black writers, the poet Phillis Wheatley and the Afro-British writer, Ignatius Sancho, Pennington astutely wrote that Jefferson had "plainly discovered to the world the adverse influence of slavery on his great mind."

In fact, Pennington, trying to prove himself a truer son of the Enlightenment than Jefferson, argued "*that intellect is identical in all human beings*" and that intellect is "the great distinguishing point between man and brute creation." And in another

allusion to Jefferson and the racist science of his day, Pennington caustically observed that "he who in discussing the nature of man, can stoop to talk about monkeys, apes, and ourang outangs, offers insult to the majesty of his own nature, for which he ought to be ashamed." As a devout clergyman, Pennington insisted that intellect was a God given gift to human beings and that it was both "*inconceivable*" and blasphemy to argue that there were different and inferior orders of intellect among man. Even though like most African American abolitionists Pennington used a religious rationale to argue against the pseudo science of race and polygenism in particular, he not only had the better religion but also the better science than his adversaries. No doubt the theology faculty at Heidelberg in the 1840s would have been pleased at his reasoning. In a small chapter, Pennington even ventured into the racial science of his day arguing that difference of color was mainly attributable to climatic and environmental differences evoking both Buffon and Blumenbach. And he challenged the venerable American patriot, doctor, and abolitionist Benjamin Rush, who had argued that blackness was the result of leprosy, a skin disease.

At the end of his book, Pennington, who was more interested in the social consequences of racism than the pseudo science of race, went on to develop a systematic critique of what he called "American prejudice against color" thus becoming one of the first American writers to develop a moral and logical argument against racism. He categorized racism as "*supreme selfishness*," "emphatically *ill will*," and illuminated its "*tendency*" towards violence, as illustrated in mob attacks against abolitionists in the 1830s, "*blindness of mind*" or ignorance, and its resulting vices among whites of "*injustice*," dishonesty, hypocrisy, "*brutish and uncivil manners*," and sac religion. In an interesting reversal of racist ideas, Pennington

attributed most traits of racial inferiority to the racists themselves. Racism, according to him, was "*carrying the total [American] nation to a state of refined heathenism*." In contrast, Pennington portrayed black Americans as superior Christians who must educate, "*love and pity*" these "*men hating Christians*." Slavery in the American republic, he acknowledged, was "*the fountain of this bitter stream*."<sup>10</sup>

Pennington's speeches, many of which were published, also established his reputation as a leading black abolitionist. In his 1842 sermon, *Covenants Involving Moral Wrong are Not Obligatory Upon Man*, which he delivered to his all black congregation in Hartford, Pennington anticipated abolitionist arguments against the Fugitive Slave Law of 1850. Based on Isaiah Chapter XXVIII, verse 8, "And your Covenant with Death shall be annulled, and your agreement with Hell shall not stand," Pennington recommended civil disobedience, i.e. disobeying laws and covenants that "binds men to do wrong." This passage would be the very one that the pre-eminent American abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison evoked in burning a copy of the U.S. Constitution with its fugitive slave clause and calling it a covenant with death and an agreement with hell nearly ten years later. Ironically, Pennington was associated with the Tappanite, evangelical, anti-Garrisonian wing of the abolition movement but when it came to the fugitive slave law and the Constitution he anticipated Garrison's radical views. In fact it was Pennington who first argued, How many of the laws, oaths, promises, compacts, agreements, usages and ordinances among men, having high sanction; consecrated with great veneration, and baptized with as much solemnity, will be swept away? Such are the laws and compacts, designed to legalize a system of human bondage.



Such, Pennington further explicated, was “the agreement contained in the federal Constitution, on the part of the Northern States of the Union, to deliver over to his claimant, the fugitive.”

In calling for civil disobedience and open resistance to the rendition of fugitive slaves, Pennington, a runaway slave who was active in the underground railroad, spoke from personal experience. The black minister proved his proposition in three steps, arguing that the fugitive slave clause of the Constitution involved disobeying God and the doctrine of the Declaration of Independence that “every man is born free and *endowed* with liberty,” that it was a “moral wrong” because it was a “SIN TO HOLD MAN IN SLAVERY” and “WRONG TO ADMIT THE RIGHT OF PROPERTY IN MAN,” and finally, that fugitive slave rendition “has in the sight of God no obligation” and “IS NOT BINDING UPON THE AIDING PARTY.” Pennington developed a closely argued theological rationale against the law. Like all abolitionists he evoked the higher law of God and the Declaration against slaveholders’ championship of the strict construction of the Constitution on all matters relating to slavery. Referring to the George Latimer fugitive slave case in Massachusetts that had galvanized the abolition movement, Pennington closed his sermon calling upon the “God of Liberty,” deftly enlisting the precepts of American republicanism, natural rights, and the Bible itself in the slave’s cause.<sup>11</sup>

Pennington’s writings propelled him into the world of transatlantic abolitionism, and in 1843, the Connecticut Anti Slavery Society selected him as their delegate to the London Antislavery Convention. Like most African Americans, Frederick Douglass, Charles Remond, William Wells Brown, and Sarah Parker Remond, Pennington experienced his travels as a “liberating sojourn” free from the all-encompassing pall of American

racism, whether it was traveling in un-segregated public conveyances or in day-to-day social intercourse. Black abolitionists however were hardly naïve or ignorant of the severe class distinctions and undemocratic political systems that characterized most of the countries they visited or the role of European nations and governments in instituting and furthering American slavery. But they did bask in the individual recognition that their talents and cause brought to them in European countries, especially among like-minded circles of reformers and republican revolutionaries. A couple of years later, Pennington took a leave of absence from his church to visit Jamaica and became, for a while, an advocate of emigration to Jamaica. With the death of his wife and the failure to overturn Connecticut’s 1818 law disfranchising blacks, Pennington’s stay in Hartford came to an end. In 1848, he assumed the pastorate of one of the largest independent black Presbyterian churches, Shiloh Presbyterian, in New York City. The next year he left for another lecturing tour to London.<sup>12</sup>

Interestingly enough, Pennington penned and published his slave narrative, *The Fugitive Blacksmith: or, Events in the History of James W.C. Pennington, Pastor of a Presbyterian Church, New York, Formerly a Slave in the State of Maryland* in London in 1849. Given constraints of language, Pennington experienced his greatest success on the lecture circuit in England but only a German university would bestow formal recognition on his intellectual achievements. During his first visit to Britain in 1843, British abolitionists had been unsuccessful in trying to procure for him an honorary doctorate. In 1850, Pennington, along with black abolitionist and fellow Presbyterian clergyman Henry Highland Garnet, attended the Frankfurt peace congress. Garnet recalled fondly the kindness of his German hosts and Pennington wrote, “Germany stands high in our affections not

only on account of her literary fame, but because of the fidelity her sons.....have ever shown the cause of human liberty." Indeed, Pennington's life and career as an abolitionist is a good example of the cross-fertilization of abolitionist activism through transatlantic networks.

In his narrative, Pennington not only recounted his first-hand experience under slavery, the trials his family passed through, his dangerous escape to freedom, and the assistance of antislavery Quakers who first opened the doors of education to the self-taught fugitive blacksmith. But unlike most slave narratives, Pennington also wrote a brilliant critique of slaveholder paternalism that bears repeating today for historians of slavery who are still remain enamored of that idea. The essence of slavery he argued was "the chattel principle," the reducing of human beings to property, marketable commodities. As he put it, "My feelings are always outraged when I hear them speak of 'kind masters,'---'Christian masters,'---'the mildest form of slavery,'---'well fed and clothed slaves,' as extenuations of slavery; I am satisfied that they either mean to pervert the truth, or they do not know what they say. The being of slavery, its soul and body, lives and moves in the chattel principle, the property principle, the bill of sale principle..." The chattel principle was not he argued an "accidental result" of slavery. "Talk not," he wrote, "then about kind and Christian masters. They are not masters of the system. The system is master of them; and the slaves are their vassals." Published in three editions in 1849 and 1850, Pennington's narrative was an international bestseller in the English-speaking world.<sup>13</sup>

The decade after Pennington received his honorary doctorate, the 1850s, were a time of crisis for not just the American nation at large but also personally for Pennington. During this time, he was

active in black abolitionist circles, in the revived convention movement, the fight for equal political rights, and against colonization. The black clergyman fortified his reputation as a leading black advocate of abolition, now always using the title of Doctor or the letters DD after his name. In 1853, the young black poet Joseph C. Holly, who published his collection of poems *Freedom's Offering* as a "humble" rather than "representative" member of the "oppressed race," dedicated his anthology to "Dr. J.W.C. Pennington, The Friend of Youth, of Learning and of Virtue, The Worthy Representative of an Oppressed Race---The Gentleman, The Christian, and Scholar, This Volume is most respectfully dedicated, as a small testimony of the High Personal Esteem in which he is held by the Author." The same year, he was elected President of the National Council of the Colored People formed by the national black convention. But things soon unraveled for Pennington, who faced charges of monetary wrongdoing by his associates including Lewis Tappan, for compromising on the issue of his church's complicity in upholding slavery by some Garrisonians, and finally of alcoholism by his own congregation, leading to his ouster from Shiloh Presbyterian. In a series of letters published in *Frederick Douglass' Paper*, Pennington adeptly defended his religious convictions and his position in the Presbyterian church.<sup>14</sup>

After a short stay at his old Hartford church, Pennington would return to a small black church in Long Island, where he had begun his abolitionist career. In 1856, he delivered a well-known first of August address to commemorate British emancipation on "the reasonableness of the abolition of slavery in the south." Abolitionists, particularly black abolitionists, often celebrated the First of August, the day of West India emancipation, instead of the Fourth of July, the day of American independence. In his speech, Pennington pre-



QUOD. BONUM. FELIX. FAUSTUMQUE. SIT

SUB. AUSPICIIS

AUGUSTISSIMI. ET. POTENTISSIMI. PRINCIPIS

AC. DOMINI. DOMINI



MAGNI. DUCIS. BADARUM. DUCIS. ZARINGIAE

ET. QUAE. SUNT. RELIQUA

RECTORIS. ACADEMIE. MAGNIFICENTISSIMI

PRORECTORE. ACADEMIAE. MAGNIFICO

VIRO. SUMME. VENERANDO

**H E N R I C O . Z O E P F L**

JURIS. UTRUSQUE. DOCTORE. ET. PROFESSORE. PUBLICO. ORDINARIO

NOS. DECANUS. SENIOR. CETERIQUE. PROFESSORES

ORDINIS. THEOLOGICUM

IN. LITERARUM. UNIVERSITATE. RUPERTO-CAROLA

IN. VIRUM. CLARISSIMUM. ET. SUMME. VENERANDUM

**JACOB. GUIL. CAROL. PENNINGTON**

IN. AEDE. PRESBYTERIANA. APUD. NOVOS. EBORACENSES. IN. AMERICA. VERBI. DIVINI. MINISTRUM.

QUI. F. CHAM. POSTERIS. NATUS. AETHIOPS. IDEMQUE. SERVUS. CANDORE. ANIMI. SE. OMNIBUS. COMMENDABILEM. REDDIDIT. AG. FABER. FERRARIUS. THESAURARI. ILIUS. EXEMPLO. SALUTAREM. EVANGELII. DISCIPLINAM. PRESSULE. AMPLEXUS. EST. NEQUE. VERO. SE. SOLEM. IN. LIBERTATEM. CORPORIS. ANIMIQUE. VINDICAVIT. VERUM. ETIAM. POPULARIUM. SUORUM. MENTIS. CALIGINEM. DISCUTERE. SORDESQUE. EXPURGARE. USQUE. ET. USQUE. ANNITUR. DENIQUE. PECTORE. PARITER. DISERTUS. ATQUE. LITERIS. ERUDITUS. SUPER. ADMODUM. IN. CONVENTU. ILLO. PACIFICO. LUTETIAE. PARISIORUM. ORATOR. EUROPAEORUM. QUOQUE. OCULOS. IN. SE. CONVERTIT. ISQUE. INTELLIGENTIAM. SUAM. EXPERIENTIAMQUE. COMPROBAVIT.

IN. HUNC. IGITUR. VIRUM

**NOMEN. DOCTORIS**

SUMMOS. IN. THEOLOGIA. HONORES. JURA. AC. PRIVILEGIA

RITE. CONTULIMUS. ET. HOC. DIPLOMATE. SIGILLO. ORDINIS. NOSTRI. MUNITO. TESTATI. SUMUS.

P. P. HEIDELBERGAE. IN. UNIVERSITATE. LITERARIA. RUPERTO-CAROLA

A. D. XIX. MENSIS. DECEMBRIS. MDCCCXLIX.



TYPE. D. PFISTERER.

sented a catalog of western emancipation beginning with the end of slavery in the northern states to abolition in Latin America, the British, French, and Danish colonies. He particularly honored the history of British antislavery, singling out Clarkson, Wilberforce, and Granville Sharp for their work in the "cause of humanity" and the famous Somerset case for launching the abolition movement in Britain. Nor was Pennington uncritical in his assessment of British emancipation, criticizing the apprenticeship system in the West Indies as "no part of the plan of British abolitionists." Gradual emancipation and apprenticing former slaves were in his words "political expedients of the government to appease the planters." Instead the abolitionists launched a new campaign to end apprenticeship and were successful in 1838, two years before the system was supposed to end. Pronouncing the British "experiment" in emancipation a great success, Pennington called for an abolitionist rally to arms in the United States, "With the Bible and Declaration of Independence for our weapons, we will make a bold push, for the day comes."<sup>15</sup>

By the end of the decade, Pennington had emerged once again as a prolific contributor to black newspapers like the *Weekly Anglo-African*, leading the fight to desegregate streetcars in New York City, and against the illegal attempt to revive the African slave trade. After flirting with his friend Reverend Henry Highland Garnet's new emigrationist organization, the African Civilization Society founded in 1858, Pennington emerged once again in the mainstream of black abolitionist opposition to colonization and any scheme to relocate black people to Africa. He would embark on yet another trip to England on the eve of the Civil War and would write the introduction to the slave narrative of J.H. Banks, published in London in 1861, usually a distinction reserved for prominent abolitionists.

Pennington addressed his introduction "to the friends of universal emancipation in Great Britain and Elsewhere" warning that the "American slave power" had "assumed a most serious aspect" as a "great war power." It had initiated one of "the most terrible civil wars" known in the history of nations, which threatened the peace of the entire continent. That "slavery is the primary cause" of the war, he wrote, "no candid man" can deny. For the last thirty years, Pennington pointed out, slavery had been the bone of contention in Congress, the press, pulpit, the courts of law, and schools "sowing the seeds of discord." Putting the blame squarely on the slave south, Pennington gave a short run down of the sectional crisis, the controversies over fugitive slaves, and the expansion of slavery into the west. When the north had at last elected as President, "a man of known integrity, Abraham Lincoln of the free state of Illinois," the south had begun to prepare for war. The American Civil War, Pennington argued, involved the friends of "Christian civilization" all over the world. The slave power planned to unite the slave owning regions of the west and extend its dominion to the Pacific.

If slavery was the root cause of the war, emancipation, according to Pennington, should be its just result. Of the 12 million people of African descent in the Americas, he pointed out, over 7 million were enslaved in the seceded states and in Brazil and Cuba. Pennington concluded with his "firm belief" that the "descendants of Africa" are "to be free, remain where they are, and eventually occupy the lands they have watered with their sweat and tears. This is distributive justice." America, he wrote, must "let my oppressed people go free" as "her salvation as a nation" depends upon it. He called on all "true friends of America" to rally around the "cause of my suffering race" and reminded them that it was not the slaves but the

masters who had brought on bloodshed, war, and broken the Union. Pennington sought to galvanize the transatlantic antislavery network behind the Union war effort long before the Lincoln administration made the war for the Union into a war against slavery. His trip to London, however, ended ignominiously when he was convicted of shoplifting a book from a second hand bookstore. After the Civil War, Pennington, like many black abolitionists, worked among freed people in the south. He died in Jacksonville, Florida in 1870.<sup>16</sup>

Much of Pennington's abolitionist career had played out on a transatlantic stage; he had achieved great fame abroad that served to bolster his reputation and aided him in responding to criticism at home. And he had deliberately sought out the honorary doctorate from Heidelberg, as the Dean of the theology faculty Professor Karl Bernhard Hundeshagen put it, "not for himself, as for his color, which represented by him, and which is so deeply disdained in America. From the granting of his petition, he hopes for an impulse in favor of the blacks and the colored in general."<sup>17</sup> In insisting that the struggle for black freedom and equality play out on an international stage and receive an international hearing, Pennington and the transatlantic movement to abolish slavery that he was a part of bequeathed an important legacy for our own times. And I am delighted that Heidelberg has chosen to honor that legacy today.

## Notes

1. On Pennington see R.J.M. Blackett, *Beating Against the Barriers: The Lives of Six Nineteenth-Century Afro-Americans* (New Orleans, La., 1982): Chap. 1; David E. Swift, *Black Prophets of Justice: Activist Clergy before the Civil War* (Baton Rouge, La., 1989): Chap. 9; Herman E. Thomas, *James W.C. Pennington: African American Churchman and Abolitionist* (New York, 1995); Christopher Webber, *American to the Backbone: The Life of James W.C. Pennington: The Fugitive Slave who Became One of the First Abolitionists* (New York, 2011).
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  7. Burchard Brentjes, *Anton Wilhelm Amo: der schwarze Philosoph in Halle* (Leipzig, Ger., 1976); Reginald Bess, "A.W.Amo: First Great Black Man of Letters," *Journal of Black Studies* 19 (June 1989): 387-393; Marilyn Sephogle, "Anton Willhelm Amo," *Journal of Black Studies* 23 (December 1992): 182-7; Grant Parker trans. and ed., *The Agony of Asar: A Thesis on Slavery by a Former Slave, Jacobus, Elisa Johannes Capitein, 1717-1747* (Princeton, NJ, 2001); Henri Gregoire, *An Enquiry Concerning the Intellectual and Moral Faculties, and Literature of Negroes* ed. Graham Russell Hodges (Armonk, NY, 1997): 76-77, 85-90.
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- Atlantic World* (Baton Rouge, La., 2007).
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  12. R.J.M. Blackett, *Building an Antislavery Wall: Black Americans in the Atlantic Abolitionist Movement, 1830-1860* (Baton Rouge, La., 1983); Honeck "Liberating Sojourns?"
  13. Pennington quoted in Honeck "Liberating Sojourns?" 11; Blackett, *Beating Against the Barriers*, 42-48; Swift, *Black Prophets of Justice*, 247-251; James W.C. Pennington, *The Fugitive Blacksmith: or, Events in the History of James W.C. Pennington, Pastor of a Presbyterian Church, New York, Formerly a Slave in the State of Maryland, United States* (London, 1849): iv-x.
  14. Swift, *Black Prophets of Justice*, 265-270, 340; Joseph C. Holly, *Freedom's Offering, A Collection of Poems* (Rochester, 1853): 3-4; Blackett, *Beating Against the Barriers*, 48-53, 63-73.
  15. J.W.C. Pennington, D.D., *The Reasonableness of Abolition of Slavery at the South, a legitimate Inference from the Success of British Emancipation. An Address Delivered at Hartford, Conn., on the First of August, 1856* (Hartford, 1856). Quotations from 11-12, 19-20.
  16. Sharla M. Fett, 'The Ship of Slavery': Atlantic Slave Trade Suppression, Liberated Africans, and Black Abolition Politics in Antebellum New York," in *Paths of the Atlantic Save Trade*, Chap. 5; *I am a Witness Against American Slavery and all its Horrors. A Narrative of Events of the Life of J.H. Banks, An Escaped Slave, From the Cotton State Alabama, in America Written with Introduction by J.W.C. Pennington, D.D.* (Liverpool, Eng., 1861): 3-7; Blackett, *Beating Against the Barriers*, 60-62, 74-84, Swift, *Black Prophets of Justice*, 329.
  17. Thomas, *James W.C. Pennington*, 181.





**A Forum for  
Public Debate**

# A Forum for Public Debate

As a forum for public debate, the HCA facilitates communication among academia and the general public as well as between the business community, the political sphere, and the media.

Events in the HCA forum present new research and current issues in the field of American Studies. They include the Baden-Württemberg Seminar of the HCA as well as individual lectures on the United States, and high-profile keynote addresses on U.S. and transatlantic affairs; debates, panel discussions, book launches, and exhibits.

Strongly believing that mutual respect and consideration can only be achieved through an open-minded but critical debate, the HCA seeks to establish a venue for dialogue and discussion about the United States, thus enhancing the understanding of the United States in Germany.

## The Baden-Württemberg Seminar

Each spring and fall, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies invites distinguished scholars, public policy experts, journalists, writers, and artists to its Baden-Württemberg Seminar. The program was initiated in the spring of 2007 as a lecture series with fellows of the American Academy in Berlin coordinated by the HCA. Since the summer of 2009, the HCA is fully responsible for the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, which has also extended its base. Participants present their current work, discuss issues of transatlantic interest or read from their writings at selected institutions throughout the state.

Baden-Württemberg's profound interest in the United States is reflected in many of its cultural, political, and economic institutions, its corporations, museums, and libraries. This past year, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies was pleased to present the eighth and ninth semesters of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. Our cooperation partners in 2010-11 were the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Language and Literature, the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach, the Carl-Schurz-Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut

Freiburg, the Theater Freiburg, the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart, the d.a.i. Tübingen and the Tübinger Bücherfest. We wish to thank this committed network of partners for their continued support.

### Fall Seminar 2010

For the eighth semester of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar, the HCA once more put together an attractive series of seven lectures and readings for enthusiastic audiences. The topics of the fall program ranged from "Soft Power" to "Moral Clarity."

The first event in the fall 2010 Baden-Württemberg Seminar on October 4 was attended by a sizeable audience, which included the MAS class of 2012. In her most recent book, *Irresistible Empire*, which came out in a German translation in 2010, Victoria De Grazia, Moore Collegiate Professor of History at Columbia University, analyzed the triumph of American consumer culture over Europe's bourgeois civilization. Having looked at this facet of "soft power," Professor DeGrazia is now conceptualizing a history of the term, which was first





Prof. Victoria DeGrazia, Columbia University

used by Harvard historian Joseph Nye in 1992 and flourished after September 11, 2001. In her lecture “Can We Write a History of Soft Power?” she pointed out that the term originally had a very positive connotation and was used interchangeably with the terms “cultural diplomacy,” “foreign public relations” and “McDonaldization.” Among other things, Professor DeGrazia posed the question when the United States started to use “Soft Power,” what work it was intended to do and what this concept said about a new moment in American hegemony.

Robert J. Norrell, Bernadotte Chair of Excellence at the University of Tennessee, started a series of November lectures with a talk on “The Media and the Movement: How Racial Images Thwarted and Enabled Race Reform in the U.S.” Looking at the representation of African Americans in the Ame-

rican mass media between 1890 and 1958, Prof. Norrell traced the history of black protest since emancipation and linked the intensifying protest in the 1950s and 60s to changes in media portrayal. While American pop culture – comic strips, advertisement and the minstrel show – had demonized African Americans for a long time and had bolstered white supremacy, this development took a sharp turn in 1938 and enhanced the emerging Civil Rights Movement. Prof. Norrell argued that against the backdrop of court decisions that bolstered African American equality and civil rights and a growing desegregation in sports, the defining media moment for black equality came with the fight of Joe Louis against Max Schmeling in June 1938. Greater racial equality was also deemed necessary for the war effort, and in the next decade or so, LIFE and LOOK magazine, the *Saturday Evening Post* and *Reader’s Digest* signi-

fificantly reduced racist images; at the same time, Norrell contended, a powerful black media empire emerged and validated black culture for African Americans.

A week later the audience at the HCA was moved and inspired by Anne Hull's engaging lecture on "The Essential Need for Journalism." Currently the Holtzbrinck fellow at the American Academy in Berlin, Anne Hull is a national reporter at the *Washington Post* whose writing often focuses on the marginalized in American society and explores the dilemmas of race, class, and immigration. Her stories investigating the neglect of wounded soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center were awarded the 2008 Pulitzer Prize for Public Service and the Robert F. Kennedy Journalism Award. Anne Hull not only gave an insider's account of how the Walter Reed Story broke, but also emphasized that the greatest privilege for reporters is to be given the time, weeks and months, to follow stories closely and intensively. She also reported on the dilemmas journalists face in "front line" reporting and about the challenges of having to leave the comforts of home and city to report on the "real" America. Furthermore, Anne Hull alerted her audience of the current difficulties newspapers face because of diminishing resources that often go to online reporting instead of investigations like the one that blew the whistle on the Walter Reed scandal. Anne Hull's approach to journalism is, as she emphasized, best characterized by Eudora Welty's words: "It is not my job to judge, but merely to pull the curtain back to reveal this hidden world behind it."

On November 23, the third lecture of the month, provocatively titled "Anti-Intellectualism in American Life: The Case of Richard Rorty," was held by Richard Wolin of the Graduate Center of the City University of New York. Many consider Rorty

as one of America's most significant philosopher of the postwar era who addressed the central problems of modern philosophy – the mind-body problem, the nature of the self, the unity of truth – and debated outstanding representatives of twentieth-century European literature like Marcel Proust, Vladimir Nabokov and George Orwell. Yet, Richard Wolin contended that at a certain point Rorty became a rather peculiar philosophical presence, a philosopher who abandoned the philosophical vocation, and announced its goals and purposes in essence a dead letter. Prof. Wolin in particular looked at Rorty's uneasy alliance during the 1970s with the Nietzsche-inspired "anti-philosophical" doctrines of Michel Foucault, Jacques Derrida, and Jean-Francois Lyotard – whose epistemological skepticism Rorty shared, but whose anti-liberal political views he increasingly found distasteful and incompatible with his own muted social democratic political leanings. Undoubtedly, the sizeable audience enjoyed and critically received the talk.

On the following day, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar was hosted by the Freiburg Institute for Advanced Studies, School of Language & Literature, who welcomed Laura Otis from Emory University. Then a Fulbright research scholar at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Prof. Otis presented her latest project, "Thinking with Images, Thinking with Words," which analyzes the ways that individuals vary in their uses of words and images to formulate thoughts. Her methods combine basic qualitative research with cross-disciplinary and historical investigation. In her primary research, Laura Otis is interviewing a wide variety of creative professionals, especially scientists and creative writers, asking them how they obtain, develop, remember, and communicate ideas. In evaluating the results, she is comparing her subjects' insights to the findings of

20th- and 21st-century psychologists, cognitive scientists, philosophers, linguists, and literary theorists about visual and verbal thinking. The goal of this project is a widely accessible, interdisciplinary book integrating the knowledge emerging in each of these fields.

The eighth Baden-Württemberg Seminar concluded in December with two lectures by renowned American authors. On December 7, philosopher Susan Neiman discussed her latest book, *Moral Clarity*, which had just come out in a German edition, at the Deutsches Literaturarchiv Marbach. A moral philosopher committed to making the tools of her trade relevant to real life, Susan Neiman shows how resurrecting a moral vocabulary — *good* and *evil*, *heroism* and *nobility* — can steer us clear of the dogmas of the right and the helpless pragmatism of the left. In search of a framework for forming clear opinions and taking responsible action on today's urgent political and social questions, she reaches back to the eighteenth century, retrieving a set of virtues — happiness, reason, reverence, and hope — that were held high by every Enlightenment thinker. Susan Neiman shows that the pursuit of moral clarity is not a matter of religious faith but is open to all who are committed to these ideals, believers and nonbelievers alike.

Two days later, the HCA welcomed Prof. Darrell Bock from Dallas Theological Seminary, whose book *Breaking the Da Vinci Code: Answers to the Questions Everyone's Asking* became a *New York Times* bestseller in its own right. The seven codes expressed or implied in Dan Brown's blockbuster novel continue to raise questions. In his lecture "The Da Vinci Code and History: Sorting Out the Claims of a Worldwide Best-Seller," Prof. looked at the basic claims of Dan Brown and alternative christianities, namely that a revision of early Christian origins is needed and that gnostic texts with

their human Jesus and view of women can take us there. He also introduced the nature of the so-called missing gospels, the movements that produced them, and their similarities and dissimilarities to the gospels we know. Prof. Bock concluded that the claim that Gnostic Christians existed alongside orthodox Christians at the start of Christianity was "simply false," that Gnostic texts are too late and too distinct to be tied to the Jewish Jesus, and that "there was no core belief system in the first century that could later be called orthodoxy."

### Spring Seminar 2011

The ninth Baden-Württemberg Seminar got off to a marvellous start when the HCA welcomed U.S. Ambassador Philip D. Murphy to Heidelberg University's Alte Aula. The ongoing global financial crisis was the topic of many lectures that contributed media, historical and economic perspectives. Switching the topic from public to private spending, the Baden-Württemberg Seminar also featured two eminent historians of American consumer culture. Finally, the HCA co-sponsored American author Claire Messud at the Tübinger Bücherfest.

On April 8, 2011, His Excellency Philip D. Murphy, U.S. Ambassador to Germany, delivered the MAS Commencement Speech. Entitled "Winning the Future: Global Prosperity in the Twenty-First Century," the lecture analyzed the challenges the United States, Germany, and the world face in the present and future, emphasizing development and innovation as key tools of diplomacy and effective partnerships. In economically challenging times, Ambassador Murphy emphasized, governments should focus on innovation and not neglect long term investments in education and infrastructure to keep pace with the rapidly changing world. Germany and the United States can set an example

of how to enhance technological knowhow and create special environments that enable different minds to work together. Research centers, urban environments and the Internet can generate new networks of ideas. His Excellency then gave the graduates a very personal piece of advice: Always be honest with yourself and, moreover, be honest about what you like and do not like, what you are good at and what you are not good at. He also advised the graduates to balance their short and long term goals, systematic work and creativity, work and play.

On April 17, the HCA and the Carl-Schurz-Haus/Deutsch-Amerikanisches Institut Freiburg together with the Theater Freiburg continued the series "Capitalism Now!" with a lecture by Todd Gitlin, professor of journalism and sociology and chair of the Ph. D. program in Communications at Columbia University. This "not very private intellectual," as he describes himself, is also well known as the third president of Students for a Democratic Society (1963-64). During his term of office he helped organize the first national demonstrations against the Vietnam War and against the apartheid regime in South Africa. In his lecture "The Press and the Romance of the Financial Bubble" Prof. Gitlin highlighted the inglorious role of the American press during the nationwide mortgage speculations which led to the worldwide financial crisis of 2008-2009. Instead of pointing out the risks of these insecure mortgages, the press cheered for the financial sector and celebrated its CEOs as "masters of the universe." At the same time, there were no investigative stories confronting the powerful men and institutions. Prof. Gitlin emphasized that also due to this one-sided press coverage investment bankers became unquestioned moral authorities for the American public. They were admired for creating value for their companies, as well as wealth for the Ame-

rican society and themselves. The press became a "watchdog that didn't bark" in the face of danger. According to Prof. Gitlin, the press failed because it was impossible for journalists, whose numbers dwindle constantly, to understand all the connections and patterns of the complex financial system. Since conventional journalism fell through, Gitlin supported the idea that non-profit journalism and informal agencies like Wikileaks will undertake the task of investigating such complex topics in the future.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on the Thursday before Easter with a talk by Dave McKenzie, an artist based in New York, at the Staatsgalerie Stuttgart. His fascinating talk about his most recent projects made the audience understand that things can take on a deeper meaning when they stop working. Thus he issued a run of ceramic mugs inscribed with the message, „REMEMBER, YOU ARE LOVED," but had them cast so that the tops are closed off just like the bottoms. In other words, they don't work – at least, not as you expect. They just are. McKenzie's works also explore themes of communication and identity, but do so mostly with common materials, simple gestures, and low budget video work. He has cast self-portraits of himself as a bobblehead, written letters to loved ones in Braille, and turned a basketball inside out. McKenzie's work, like all good conceptual art, proves far better at raising questions than answering them.

The third event in the Baden-Württemberg Seminar returned to the current financial crisis. In his enlightening lecture, Adam Tooze from Yale University revisited the New Deal, which, as he pointed out, was controversial from the outset. Many Americans saw and see the Roosevelt administration as inimical to the American Way of Life in a radicalizing political discourse. The aca-



Prof. Adam Tooze, Yale University

demic discipline of economics in particular is almost dramatically divided, with each side boasting its Nobel Prize winners and influential public intellectuals. To complicate the picture further, historians of the New Deal are fragmented along technical and political lines and the function of history itself has changed. Mapping this confusing field, Prof. Tooze offered four positions that combine different politics and economic theories with different notions of the purpose of history. For a large section of the American liberal public the New Deal, the American victory in World War II, and the Marshall Plan continue to represent a nostalgic badge of collective identity, a vital pro-

gressive moment in American history, tinged with a sense of regret about the present and a nostalgia for the past. Not surprisingly, the American left, while marginal to popular debate, has attacked New Deal politics from the start, maintaining that the state expanded but that the structures of capitalism were untouched, destroying the populist roots of American grassroots democracy. Far more dominant than this view is the vocal and popular critique from the right, which argues that the state intervention of the New Deal and the uncertainty it created amongst businessmen actually caused the prolonged economic slump. The so called freshwater school even cruelly insists that all changes

in economic activity, including unemployment, can be traced back to rational choices by free economic agents. For Prof. Tooze, the most powerful position is the "skeptical optimism" adopted by mainstream policy intellectuals such as Ben Bernanke, Paul Krugman, or Christina Romer, a position true to the legacy of American pragmatism. Skeptical optimists believe that rational human thought and action within existing institutions can make a powerful positive difference. While the era of the Great Depression does not necessarily offer answers to the questions the U.S. is facing today, skeptical optimists can probably best meet the challenge to open a new chapter in the national narrative that ends the saga of American exceptionalism. Naturally, the talk was followed by a lively discussion with the sizeable audience.

The global financial crisis was also the topic of the next lecture, provocatively titled "The Great Bluff: America's Temporary Escape from the Financial Crisis." After the massive "bailouts," of 2008 to 2010, Robert Isaak, professor of International Management at Pace University in New York and author of *Brave New World Economy: Global Finance Threatens Our Future*, revealed the weak spots of what he considers a rather fragile financial security. For Prof. Isaak, the American culture is a money culture with a banker's view of reality. Understanding the special relationship between Americans and their money is essential in order to comprehend their current reaction to the financial crisis. In the United States money serves as a surrogate for freedom. Prof. Isaak pointed out that the American bailouts constitute, among other things, a shift from the private to the public sector, which is not only bad news for the tax payers but also a violation of a maxim many Americans believe in: "The government is best which governs least." Yet, were those drastic bailouts which go against the American culture and tradition even successful? Accord-

ing to Prof. Isaak, the escape from the financial crisis they achieved can only be temporary or in other words a "Great Bluff." First, the financial crisis caused the decline of small commercial banks, which support small and medium-sized businesses and therefore the American middle class; at the same time, the big banks, which gain profit from new financial instruments like mortgages and assets, were saved with great amounts of taxpayer money. Second, in comparison to states like Russia or China, the United States holds only small reserves of foreign exchange and gold to back up their currency. Third, the United States spend a lot of money on the social sector, for example on education or health, but the "profits," e.g. the average life expectancy, don't represent the money spent. As a result of insecurity and uncertainty during the crisis, conservative politics gained popularity. According to Prof. Isaak, the only way out of the worldwide financial crisis is to solve the conflict between the developed and overbanked industrial countries and the undeveloped and underbanked ones.

The Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on a lighter note in late May, when a large audience gathered on a sunny afternoon in the courtyard of the Stiftskirche in Tübingen. As part of the 2011 Tübinger Bücherfest, American author Claire Mesud read from her novel *The Emperor's Children*, the story of three friends in their early thirties, living in Manhattan in the months leading up to September 11, 2001. All three are well-educated and privileged, but struggle with realizing the lofty expectations for their own personal and professional lives. *The Emperor's Children* was longlisted for the Man Booker Prize and named one of the ten best books of 2006 by the *New York Times*, which called it "an astute and poignant evocation of hobnobbing glitterati in the months before and immediately following Sept. 11." The enthusiastic

audience certainly attested to this and queued up to get their books signed afterwards.

The spring semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar continued on the last day of June with a talk by Kristin Hoganson, a well known expert on transnational history and the cultures of U.S. imperialism. In her talk, Prof. Hoganson argued that the world of domestic consumption linked the formal U.S. empire of state power to a more informal but not less powerful empire of U.S. commercial power. Economic expansion fueled the globalization of consumption, while the appetite of U.S. consumers in turn drove economic expansion, quadrupling, for example, the import rates of food between the end of the Civil War and the turn of the century. Consumers, producers, importers, retailers, advertisers, advice purveyors, and conspicuous style setters all played their part in this development. "Appropriate consumption" started to characterize the relatively cosmopolitan lifestyle of white, well-to-do, native-born Americans. To analyze how Gilded Age Americans "bought into" their empire, Prof. Hoganson employed "geographies of consumption," looking at the public circulation of ideas that explained and contextualized foreign goods for the domestic market. Fashion retailers, for example, not only advertised lingerie, but pointed to their Asian origins; cookbooks taught lessons about U.S. imperialism in the Caribbean and the Philippines; decorating columns referred to "Chinese rattan" and "Oriental rugs." These "consumer geographies" often drew on a militaristic language and depicted imperial expansion as beneficial to both American consumers and foreign producers. Another way to understand the correlation between domestic consumption and empire is to look at cultural practice: How consumers made ostensibly foreign goods part of their daily lives. Imports often became a sign of social distinction and a marker of civilizational attainment

that associated their users with a global elite. Prof. Hoganson pointed to the "cosy corners" – orientalist niches – that became a rage in middle-class households before the turn of the century and to the popularity of "foreign entertainments" like tea à la Russ or "Chinese frolics." At fundraising fairs with themed booths, Midwest matrons could shop for perfumes from Paris, coffee from Constantinople, or china cups from Shanghai. In the end, the American consumption of foreign goods was not only cause or result of U.S. imperialism but an integral part of it.

The ninth semester of the HCA's Baden-Württemberg Seminar concluded on July 7 with a talk by Susan Strasser, the Richards Professor of American History at the University of Delaware. An eminent scholar of American consumption history, Prof. Strasser traced the development of American marketing techniques and shopping customs from 19th century Main Street to the discount stores of today. Her talk commenced with a look at the origins of mass marketing. As the United States changed from an agricultural to an industrial society, countless new products emerged, and around the turn of the century, Americans of all classes had begun to eat, drink, and wear products made in factories that processed massive amounts of raw materials. Along with new production methods, new techniques for national marketing emerged to convert a population used to homemade products to standardized, advertised and branded goods. While most goods had been sold as unbranded commodities and wholesalers had controlled the market throughout the nineteenth century, some mass producers now established sales and delivery forces and started to promote their own products. As Americans increasingly switched from the cracker barrel to Uneeda Biscuits, from bulk oats to Quaker Oats and from soda to Coca-Cola, contemporary consumer culture began





Prof. Susan Strasser, University of Delaware

catalogue to prospective customers, processed more than nine hundred sacks of mail a day, and operated its own printing plant and the second largest power plant in Chicago. At the same time, chain stores started to replace the general store all over the country, most prominently the Atlantic and Pacific Tea Company, which had started trading groceries in the 1890s; A&P operated almost two hundred stores in 28 states by the turn of the century and almost 16,000 by 1930. Well before that, in 1916, the first Piggly Wiggly Store in Memphis, Tennessee, introduced self-service; the chain ultimately had 2,660 stores and franchised its design. By the 1930s, many characteristics of the American shopping landscape were in place: To serve a population accustomed to brand names, increasingly equipped with automobiles and looking for bargain prices, enormous supermarkets were erected on cheap land outside urban areas. Like today's Wal-Mart shoppers, customers were no longer restrained by what they could carry but bought in great quantities, ensuring high volume and fast turnover. Not surprisingly, Prof. Strasser's talk triggered an animated discussion — after all, everybody in the audience was a consumer.

to emerge. Prof. Strasser then turned to analyze changes in retailing. New marketing methods demanded new types of stores. Mass merchandising brought forth three genuinely new retail forms: the department store, the mail-order store and the chain store. They all applied fundamental principles of modern selling: Prices were fixed before the sale, workers low-paid, goods departmentalized and priced to move fast. A.T. Stewart's "Marble Palace" in New York opened in 1846 as the first "department store," Macy's and Marshall Field's followed soon, and many department stores opened mail-order divisions to cater to rural customers. By 1906, Sears, Roebuck sent out a 1000 page





Prof. Hartmut Berghoff, German Historical Institute, Washington, D.C.

### **GHI Director Prof. Dr. Hartmut Berghoff at the HCA**

On March 17, 2011, the HCA welcomed Prof. Hartmut Berghoff, currently the director of the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C. His lecture on the history of credit rating agencies foreshadowed what would become an important topic in the upcoming spring seminar of the Baden-Württemberg Seminar. It drew a sizeable crowd — Prof. Berghoff's audience was undoubtedly also looking for an explanation why U.S. rating agencies failed so blatantly in the financial crisis that started in 2008. Today's rating agencies, Prof. Berghoff stated, "grossly underestimated the risks involved, ... were simply overtaxed by the ... complexity of the new investment vehicles" and were subjected to a "conflict of interest." In addition, Prof. Berghoff treated the audience at the HCA to a little explo-

red subject of economic history: the emergence of credit rating agencies in the nineteenth century United States. These agencies were an institutional response to the challenges facing an industrializing nation and later an industrializing globe. In an expanding market that sold most of its wares on credit, nineteenth century businessmen looked for a system that would transform commercial uncertainties into manageable risks. Transforming and ultimately substituting the social capital formerly accumulated through families, churches, and ethnic communities, rating agencies collected, evaluated, and centralized enormous amounts of data and thus enabled their clients to foster trust among strangers in an increasingly anonymous and insecure world. At the same time, they acted as disciplining institutions, guided by the values of the WASP middle class. Credit rating agencies grew exponentially: The reference book of the Dun

agency, founded as the Mercantile Agency by silk merchant Lewis Tappan in 1841, boasted 10.000 entries by 1859 and 1.8 million by 1915. Today, Dun & Bradstreet remains the market leader in the commercial data business. In addition, Prof. Berghoff pointed out that the relative strength of credit rating agencies in the U.S. also reflected the weakness of the banking system, whereas businesses in Germany – geographically much smaller – could rely on local Chambers of Commerce for contact, information, and trust. Yet, credit rating did eventually get off the ground in the German Empire, particularly when it became increasingly indispensable for German exporters to tap into global information networks.

## HCA Book Launches

This spring, the HCA introduced a new format on its event calendar. Students, colleagues and the interested public were invited to the first HCA book launch on April 12, 2011. Mischa Honeck, a research associate and the Ph.D.-Coordinator at the HCA, introduced his first book, *We Are the Revolutionists: German-Speaking Immigrants and American Abolitionists after 1848*. The evening opened with music and pictures that transported the audience back to the mid-nineteenth century. After a warm introduction by Dr. Wilfried Mausbach, Dr. Honeck used the opportunity to thank his colleagues at the HCA for the support during the years of research and writing. In the following lecture Dr. Honeck retold the story of the so



Dr. Martin Öfele and Dr. Mischa Honeck

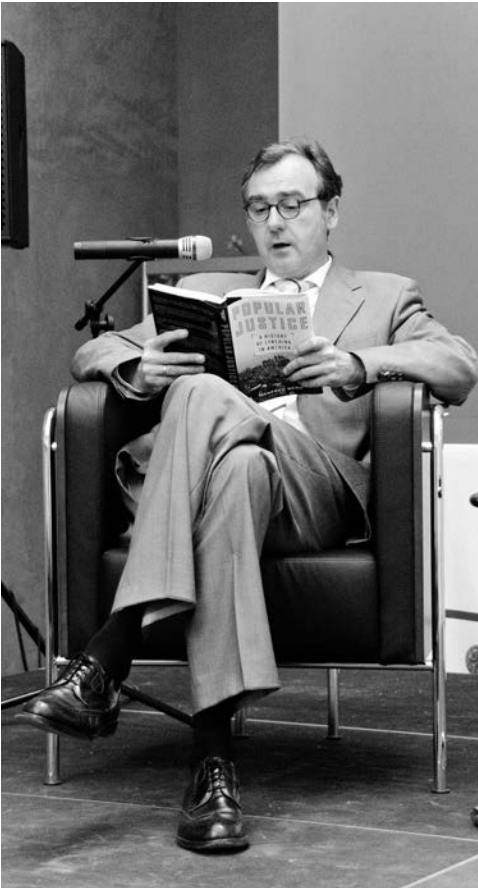
called Forty-Eighters who fought for their ideals in the failed European revolutions of 1848–49. Thousands of them fled from prosecution to North America. However, arriving in a foreign country did not end their pursuit of freedom. After 1848, German-speaking immigrants collaborated and build new friendships with American abolitionists, overcoming ethnic and cultural boundaries for a common goal: the abolition of slavery. Yet, in his lecture Dr. Honeck also analyzed the limits of this transatlantic alliance. Not only did American and German Revolutionists disagree on how to achieve their common goals, but they were also trapped in their respective social environments of ethnocentrism and racism. Thus, Dr. Honeck placed the struggle for abolition in a new transnational perspective, 150 years to the day after the battle of

Fort Sumter, which started the American Civil War. The evening continued with Civil War historian Martin Öfele, who gave his appraisal of *We Are the Revolutionists*, questions from the floor and a lively discussion. Members from the audience then had a chance to continue the conversation with the author over a glass of wine.

On April 21, 2011, a sizable audience welcomed Tobias Endler, the new Ph.D. administrator at the HCA, for the second HCA book launch. He presented his recently published book *After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers about the World, the U.S. and Themselves*. With his presentation Tobias Endler also provided a glimpse into the sources for his forthcoming dissertation. During a research and teaching fellowship at Yale University Tobias End-



Dr. Tobias Endler



Prof. Manfred Berg

ler had interviewed fourteen men and three women who are some of the most prominent public intellectuals of the United States, for example John Bolton, Francis Fukuyama, James M. Lindsay and Nancy Soderberg. These public intellectuals are not only highly visible in the media, but have each published a book on America's foreign policy after 9/11. On the one hand, Tobias Endler asked his interview partners to define their nation's role and position on the global stage: What is America's foreign policy in the post-9/11 world? What should it be? What led to the catastrophe of September 11? How to best to prevent another one, and how to restore America's damaged reputation? What to

expect of Obama? And are the United States still a superpower? On the other hand, he asked them to define their own role: What is a public intellectual? Is this still a relevant concept? Did their authority increase since the attacks of 9/11? What role do public intellectuals play in the democratic public debate? After explaining the concept and method of his work Tobias Endler continued his lecture with excerpts of audio tapings of the interviews. The audience enjoyed this part of the book launch particularly. Not only did the audio recordings give a greater insight into Tobias Endler's work, they also made the audience feel closer to the intellectuals themselves. It became obvious that although the professional backgrounds of these political thinkers are as diverse as their ideological orientations, most of them agree that America should have a leadership role in the world and only disagree on how to achieve it. The evening was completed with contributions by Dr. Martin Thunert, senior lecturer in political science at the HCA, and by Prof. Dietmar Schloss, one of the Ph. D. advisors of Tobias Endler. Afterwards, all three of them gladly answered questions and later continued the engaging conversation with the audience over a glass of wine.

For this season's third HCA book launch on May 26, 2011, Prof. Detlef Junker warmly welcomed his long term friend and colleague Prof. Manfred Berg, who is the Curt Engelhorn Professor of American History at the University of Heidelberg. Prof. Berg introduced his new book *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* to his students, colleagues and the interested public. The reading looked at lynchings in different periods of American history, starting with the origin of the term. During the American Revolution, Charles Lynch headed an extra-legal county court in Virginia, which punished criminals, traitors, and supporters of the British. Though Lynch and his companions

gave themselves the power to punish, Prof. Berg pointed out that their actions cannot be equated with later mob violence. Their violation of law took place during a time of a clear military threat and the chaos of war. Yet, since that time the name “Lynch” is inseparable linked to extra-legal violence. In the chapter “Indescribable Barbarism” Prof. Berg described lynching as an instrument of racial oppression in the South during the Jim Crow era. Blacks who were suspected of raping or killing Whites were often “brought to justice” not by legal authorities or a court but by raging mobs armed with ropes, fire, and cameras. Most participants of group violence were ordinary people. They committed terrible crimes because they followed orders, believed in a “higher cause” or wanted to keep their communities safe. Lynching was a very visible and therefore very effective instrument to maintain white supremacy even after the abolition of slavery. However, Mexicans, Chinese immigrants, Whites and others also became lynching victims. Prof. Berg introduced the example of the Jewish factory superintendant Leo Frank, who was accused of raping and killing a young girl in 1913. Though he was innocent, he was sentenced to death because of anti-Semitic prejudices, an aggressive yellow press, and ambitious southern politicians. Frank was acquitted but then kidnapped and killed by an angry mob after his release. In the last part of his lecture Prof. Berg analyzed the transition from lynching to hate crimes in the 1980s. For him, hate crimes are individual acts of violence against minorities which are inspired by the same ideologies as lynching but without the support of the community. Prof. Berg’s lecture was met with great interest in the discussion that followed. Many members of the audience took the chance to continue the conversation with the author over a glass of wine and to purchase *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America*.

## Ruperto Carola 625 Years

In 2011, the HCA contributed to the celebration of the 625th anniversary of Heidelberg University with the following activities:

March 15-April 21

Photo Exhibition

“The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany”

(See page 194)

March 31

University Hour

“Bridges to the New World: Meet the HCA’s Partners on the Other Side of the Atlantic – A Video Conference”

On Thursdays throughout its anniversary year, the Ruperto Carola invited the Heidelberg public to learn more about its multifaceted teaching and research activities. Each week during the “University Hour,” a different institute opened its doors to present its work. On March 31, the HCA built “Bridges to the New World.” A video conference via skype offered HCA fellows and visitors the opportunity to meet and chat with its partners on the other side of the Atlantic. It started out with Felix Lutz at the Center for European Studies at Harvard University, who, among other things, reported on the consequences of the global financial crisis on elite American universities. After that, Maria Höhn at Vassar college told the audience about the history of the photo exhibition “Civil Rights, African Americans, and Germany” that was showing at the HCA at the time. We talked to Heidelberg Ph.D. candidate Johannes Steffens who was conducting research at Columbia University in New York City at the time, and then moved on to the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., a longtime partner of the HCA. In the U.S. capital, we also connected with



Chatting with Marcus Gräser from the GHI Washington, D.C. via Skype

David Morris, German area specialist at the Library of Congress. The HCA video conference continued at the University of Nebraska with two former associates of the HCA, Jeannette Jones and Alexander Vazansky. We then went to Denver, Colorado, to chat with Kathleen Lance, president of Heidelberg Alumni U.S., which also gave Irmintraud Jost on this side of the Atlantic the opportunity to report on the activities of the Ruperto Carola's Alumni Association. Our virtual journey across the North American continent ended in San Francisco, where we talked to Bob Cherny, a former Fulbright Professor at the HCA, and Charles Postel, our future Ghaemian Scholar in Residence. Entertained further with wine and pretzels, our visitors undoubtedly gained interesting insights into the work of the HCA and its partners – for more than an hour.

- April 8  
Commencement MAS Class of 2011  
Speaker: His Excellency Philip D. Murphy  
U.S. Ambassador to the Federal republic of Germany  
(see page 66)
- June 24  
America Day  
Panel Discussion: "The Obama Presidency – Will There Be a Second Term?"  
Announcement of the James W.C. Pennington Award  
(see page 160)
- June 25  
University Mile  
HCA Open House: "Hot Off the Press, Hot Off the Reel, Hot Off the Grill"





Enjoying American Barbecue in the HCA Backyard

The HCA was “hot” during UniMeile, another part of the jubilee activities at the Ruperto Carola. Once again, Dietmar Schloss and Heiko Jakubzik put together an attractive program that presented new American novels, movies, music, and TV series. The event originated from the graduate seminar “Hot Off the Press” that has followed new trends in American Literature, film, pop music and the Internet for seven years now. The large and keenly interested audience heard about the news coverage of the killing of Osama Bin Laden, novels by Paul Auster, Jennifer Egan, and David Foster Wallace, TV series like “Mad Men” and movies like *Black Swan* and *The Social Network*. Spirited discussions always followed the short lectures and “Hot Off the Press” once more proved to be a very successful format. In addition, visitors to the HCA could this time enjoy American Barbecue in the back yard. Our thanks go to “Tischlein Deck Dich” Catering for providing delicious spare ribs, corn on the cob, and much more.

September, 9-11

Conference

Zeitenwende 9/11? Eine transatlantische Bilanz 10 Jahre danach  
(see page 126)

October 6-8

Conference

“Religion and the Marketplace in the United States and Europe”  
(see page 129)



Prof. Detlef Junker and Laura Stapane at the Exhibition Opening

## Exhibition: "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany"

From March 15 to April 21, 2011, the Heidelberg Center for American Studies utilized its Atrium as an exhibition space for the first time by hosting a photography exhibition on "The Civil Rights Struggle, African American GIs, and Germany." Curated by Professor Maria Höhn (Vassar College) and Dr. Martin Klimke (GHI Washington/HCA), the traveling exhibit — containing more than 45 black-and-white photographs, cartoons, political pamphlets, and posters — illustrates the historical connection between the expansion of the U.S. military base system abroad and the advancement of civil rights in the United States from the mid-1940s to the late 1970s. It portrays, in particular, the role that African American GIs played in carrying the demands of the civil rights movement to West Germany, which was the largest contingent of American troops deployed outside the U.S.

Welcoming the guests — among them members of the U.S. military community and the Rhein-Neckar Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) as well as former activists, academics, and students — Founding Director Prof. Dr. Detlef Junker opened the exhibition-reception on March 15. Laura Stapane, the project's coordinator, then gave a brief introduction to this important but little-known chapter of the history of African American GIs and the civil rights movement. Noting that more than three million African American soldiers have been stationed in West Germany since 1945, Laura Stapane described how these GIs, as part of a segregated army, participated in the defeat of Nazi Germany and the military occupation of postwar Germany and how these experiences transformed them into crucial actors in the civil rights struggle.

By bringing a segregated army to military bases outside the physical boundaries of the United



States, America transferred its racial conflicts and actors onto foreign soil. Thus, the African American struggle for freedom, equality, and democracy could no longer be hidden from the rest of the world. The experiences and participation of black GIs in the occupation of West Germany had a tremendous impact on individual soldiers who swore that they would never go back to the old ways again. Speaking for many soldiers at that time, former secretary of state Colin Powell, for example, described his time of duty in Cold War Germany in his memoirs as a “breath of freedom.” Black soldiers could “go where they wanted, eat where they wanted, and date whom they wanted, just like other people,” he continued. Drawing on the experience of these soldiers, civil rights activists claimed that it was in postwar Germany that black GIs found the equality and democracy denied them in their own country. When the civil rights movement gained momentum during the 1950s and 1960s, African American GIs deployed overseas intensified their collaboration with German activists, for example, from the German student movement, as well as with civil rights organizations such as the NAACP, to fight racism not only at home but also in the U.S. military. As Laura Stapano explained, these protests forced the U.S. government to take action to end discrimination, injustice, and racism in the U.S. military.

By giving voice to the African American GIs and to the people who interacted with them over civil rights demands and racial discrimination on both sides of the Atlantic, the curators of the exhibition, Maria Höhn and Martin Klimke hope to preserve and expand our knowledge of the history of the African American civil rights movement beyond the boundaries of the U.S.

This exhibition stems from a larger research initiative that was honored by the NAACP with the

2009 Julius E. Williams Distinguished Community Service Award; the initiative is jointly sponsored by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies, the German Historical Institute in Washington, D.C., and Vassar College. For more information on the project and the digital archive, please go to [www.aacvr-germany.org](http://www.aacvr-germany.org).

## **Media Coverage of HCA Events**

During the past year, reports on the HCA, its faculty and staff and its activities have appeared in the following media:

Deutschlandradio Kultur, Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Foreign Policy in Focus, Handelsblatt, History News Network, Mannheimer Morgen, The Memphis Commercial Appeal, Rhein-Neckar-Zeitung, [sueddeutsche.de](http://sueddeutsche.de), Speyerer Rundschau, SWR 2 Radio, and XM Satellite Radio 169 The Power.







# GLOBALIZING LYNCHING HISTORY

VIGILANTISM AND EXTRALEGAL PUNISHMENT  
FROM AN INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE

EDITED BY MANFRED BERG  
AND SIMON WENDT



From Palgrave Macmillan

**GLOBALIZING LYNCHING HISTORY**  
*Vigilantism and Extralegal Punishment  
from an International Perspective*  
Manfred Berg,  
Simon Wendt (Eds.)

AVAILABLE OCTOBER 2011

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macmillan

This book takes a first step toward globalizing the history of lynching. Covering fourteen countries and five continents, it demonstrates that lynching has neither been a uniquely American phenomenon, nor did it exclusively target racial and ethnic minorities. But what appears to be common to vigilantism and extralegal punishment around the globe is the ideology of popular justice, the idea that lynching represents a form of communal self-defense against crimes that are unchecked by the state. The multidisciplinary and multiregional approach of this volume will lay the groundwork for a more thorough understanding of mob violence and extralegal punishment in the United States and the world.

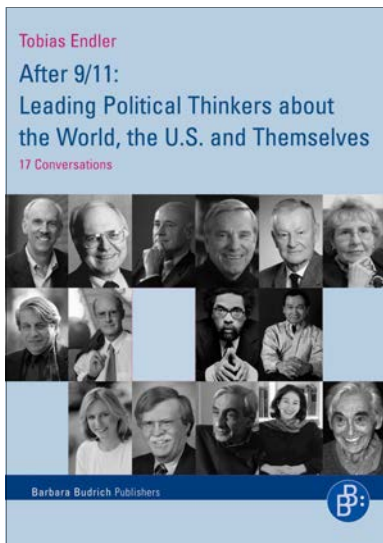
„Berg and Wendt’s collection broadens the study of lynching by light years. By showing that societies, particularly outside Europe and North America, still often resort to extra-legal communal violence, this ground-breaking work demonstrates that lynching is still alive.“

–STEPHEN J. LEONARD, chair and professor  
of History, Metropolitan State College of  
Denver.

**Manfred Berg** is Curt Engelhorn Professor of American history at the University of Heidelberg. He is the author or editor of numerous publications on German, American, and international history. His most recent books are *Popular Justice: A History of Lynching in America* (2011) and *Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer and Adaptation* (2011), which he co-edited with Simon Wendt.

**Simon Wendt** is an assistant professor of American studies at the University of Frankfurt. He is the author of *The Spirit and the Shotgun: Armed Resistance and the Struggle for Civil Rights* (2007) and co-editor of *Racism in the Modern World: Historical Perspectives on Cultural Transfer*

# After 9/11 – Positions and Perspectives



## **Tobias Endler** **After 9/11: Leading Political Thinkers** **about the World, the U.S. and Themselves** 17 Conversations

2011. Ca. 200 pp. Pb. Ca. 19,90 € (D), 20,50 € (A), 30,50 SFr,  
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**After 9/11 presents 17 interviews with America's leading political thinkers. Renowned experts such as Zbigniew Brzezinski, Francis Fukuyama, and Noam Chomsky discuss the nation's foreign policy in the post-9/11 world. Yet, they also comment on their own role in US society – and the mounting challenges they face today.**

The conversations illustrate the hopes and expectations, the anger and frustration, the shattered beliefs and unshakable convictions of the nation's preeminent minds – at a time when America made its epic transition from George W. Bush to Barack Obama. Renowned experts engage in a vibrant debate about their nation's position on the global stage: What is America's foreign policy in the post-9/11 world? What should it be? What led to the catastrophe of September 11? How best to prevent another one, and how to restore America's damaged reputation? What to expect of Obama? While struggling to define their nation's role in a world that has changed since the terror attacks, the intellectuals discuss their own role in 21st-century society – a society that thrives on public discourse.

The book is written for students, graduates, and lecturers in political science, sociology, culture studies, philosophy, and history. However, anyone interested not only in the political positions of America's most prominent thinkers but also in how these thinkers feel about what they do and how they do it will enjoy this book.

### **Interview partners:**

Benjamin Barber, John Bolton, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Noam Chomsky, Francis Fukuyama, Jean Bethke Elshtain, Robert O. Keohane, James M. Lindsay, Michael Novak, Joseph Nye, Clyde Prestowitz, Anne-Marie Slaughter, Nancy Soderberg, Strobe Talbott, Michael Walzer, Cornel West, Howard Zinn (†)

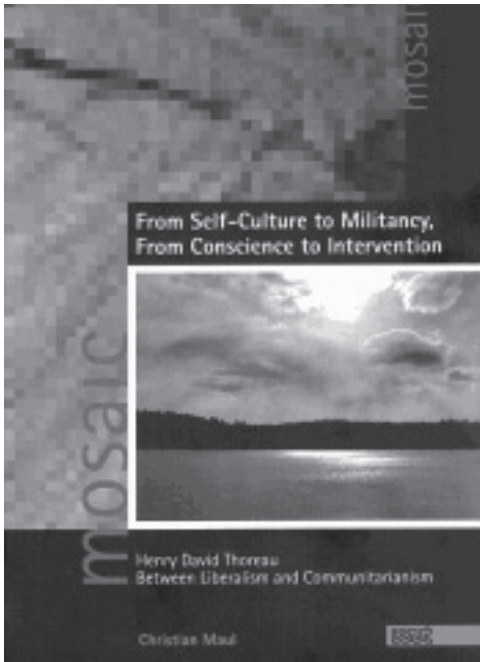
### **The author:**

#### **Tobias Endler**

Ph.D. candidate at the University of Heidelberg, Germany. His research focuses on the role and self-perception of public intellectuals in 21<sup>st</sup>-century America.

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## Christian Maul

### **From Self-Culture to Militancy, From Conscience to Intervention**

#### Henry David Thoreau Between Liberalism and Communitarism

Readers of Thoreau rarely react with equanimity to his writings. While his admirers celebrate this Transcendentalist as a pioneer of modern environmentalism or as a major inspiration for civil rights leaders such as Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King, his detractors tend to dismiss him as a cheap imitation of his mentor, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Moreover, from James Russell Lowell to today, some of the most scathing criticism has been directed at what appears to be the escapist and anti-social thrust of his individualism. This book focuses on the latter charge. It examines Thoreau's concept of the self in light of the recent controversy between proponents of liberal individualism, notably John Rawls, and a group of communitarian theorists that includes Michael Sandel, Charles Taylor, and Michael Walzer. From this perspective, the seemingly isolationist and misanthropic inclinations pervading Thoreau's life and work are revealed as initializing a project of self-fashioning that is profoundly community-oriented and that aims at counteracting the loss of social values.

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For more information on the HCA and its B.A., M.A. and Ph.D. in American Studies programs, as well as on its other activities in the areas of higher education, interdisciplinary research, and public forum, please log on to our website at [www.hca.uni-hd.de](http://www.hca.uni-hd.de) and subscribe to our newsletter.





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